

Reunion to honor 10th anniversary of museum, salute "Spanish Boys," Sports Hall of Famers

Reunion 2009 will be held the last weekend in April and will mark the past decade of excellence at the AMA Museum, induct eight new members of the AMA Sports Hall of Fame and laud the "Spanish Boys" who contributed so much to Augusta's diversity. In an unfavorable economic climate, the hope is that AMA men will respond as they always have toward making this a very successful reunion. Details begin on page 10.



Eight new members of the AMA Sports Hall of Fame will be inducted during Reunion 2009. The new inductees are **Wayne Blaylock**, '62 (football, basketball, track), **Henley Carter**, '65 (football, baseball), the late **Nick Forkovich**, '41 (football), **Don Johns**, '49 (football), **Joe Josephson** (football and basketball coach), **Don Studer** (rifle team coach), **Meb Turner**, '49 (wrestling, football) and **Al Zayas**, '72 (lacrosse). These eight will be honored at the luncheon on Saturday 25 April in the AMA Gymnasium where so many great athletic events were staged.

Foundation, Alumni Association hit by bad economy

The Winter brought more than snow to Fort Defiance. With investments and donations down more than a third, a chill wind portends bleak prospects unless expenses can be reduced and income increased. Be sure to read Foundation Chairman **Frank Williamson's** letter on page 29.

**Death takes
Col. Will Parkins, '35,
Chief Chester Cole**

**CASINO NIGHT
OFFERS NEW
CHANCES FOR
BIG BUCKS!**

**Details on the
AMA trip to PARIS and
the Normandy Coast**

**Augusta Military Academy
Alumni Association, Inc.**

Winter 2009



I recently heard a sound that reminded me of the scratchy voice of the record, just before it bellowed Reveille from the speakers in the Tower in the Courtyard of Big Barracks. That thought reminded me to what it was like polishing brass, shining shoes, cleaning rifles, having study hall and performing drill. The lessons we learned as young men gave us a head start over our friends we knew who wore "civvies" and created a bond between brothers that lasts a lifetime. I'll always be grateful for that time in my life and the life long friends made at AMA who mean so much to me.

The last few months have been exciting to say the least: the economy; meetings at VMI; elections; Holidays and weather...all having an impact on our lives. However, it is the economy that has taken center stage and hogged the spotlight.

The Directors of the Association and the Trustees of the Foundation met in Lexington at the Virginia Military Institute to have the Fall board meetings. The red carpet was laid out and we were treated as very special guests. Our Chaplain **Frank Spencer, '49**, (VMI '53) made the arrangements for us and we're grateful for all his work that made the meeting so enjoyable and effective. If you're hungry for a dose of how it used to be at AMA...drop by the VMI Campus on a Friday afternoon, poke your head in the Barracks and then watch the Corps perform their Parade. Thanks again to Frank and to all who attended.

Reunion 2009 is shaping up very well....The main Theme will be the "10th Anniversary of the AMA Museum" and the underlying theme will be a tribute to "The Spanish Boys" and their contribution to AMA. The Friday tour will take us to Roanoke to visit the Railroad Museum and Saturday's Founders Day Ceremony will highlight those folks that rest in the Old Stone Church Cemetery who had much influence on the success of AMA.

Because of the economic downturn, I fear the impact on our small organization will have a big effect. So far, we've seen our investments decline some 34%....our contributions have declined by more than that... and we're digging into our reserves to meet our commitments. At the Association and at the Foundation, we're cutting expenses and stretching our dollars...just as you are. If there ever was a time to support AMA, it's now. It's time to come together as the Corps of Cadets, band together as brothers and show the AMA Spirit. I encourage you to make the following decisions: Attend the Reunion; Send a contribution along with your registration form; Call a classmate and encourage him to attend the reunion; Volunteer to help AMA survive these challenging economic times.

I know we'll step up and do what's right. Here's a heartfelt "thank you" for your generosity. My very best to you during the Winter...I wish you a prosperous and healthy 2009 and look forward to seeing you in April.

Garry Granger, '71

President, AMA Alumni Association, Inc.



Volume 2009, Number 1

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P.O. Box 100, Fort Defiance, VA 24437-0100

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Notice of changes of address should be sent to AMA Alumni House, P. O. Box 100, Fort Defiance, VA 24437-0100. Or by e-mail to: AMAAlumniHouse@aol.com.

Please provide us with your 9-digit ZIP code!

The *Bayonet* welcomes information and articles for or about AMA alumni. Share the news of promotions, awards, retirement, births, marriages, deaths, etc. Please print or type your submission.

Digital photos should be in at least 300 dpi resolution and, if possible, in TIFF format. Clear and correctly exposed glossy prints are also welcomed.

Mail, e-mail or FAX information to:

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1935

(JULIAN QUARLES)

Bill Robinson lives in Vero Beach, FL and until 2002 when he was 86, he piloted his own Lake Buccaneer amphibious four-seater aircraft. He and his wife have three children and three grandchildren. Bill, thank you so much for your \$250 contribution!

Julian Quarles missed going to the annual reunion of the 36th Division saying that *"travel at age 91 is too arduous."* Julian won the Silver Star for bravery in the Italian Campaign during World War II.

[jimqjr@aol.com]

George Adam, Julian's roommate at AMA, is living in a retirement facility in Webster, TX where he plays *"lots of poker for pennies and dimes."* George has 15 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. After service in the Pacific in World War II, he managed a chemical plant.

1936

(TOM ROLLER)

Tom Roller lost his dear wife, Dina, just before Christmas. He moved to California in 1973 and married Dina in 1984. Several years ago, they re-located from Southern California to Arizona. Tom is the son of **Colonel Tom Roller**, co-owner of AMA with **General Charles Roller, Jr.** from 1907 until his death in 1946. Tom was First Captain his senior year. Every Augusta man extends sympathy to Tom in the loss of his sweet Dina. Tom will continue to live in Mesa, AZ.

[rollerAMA@msn.com]

1938

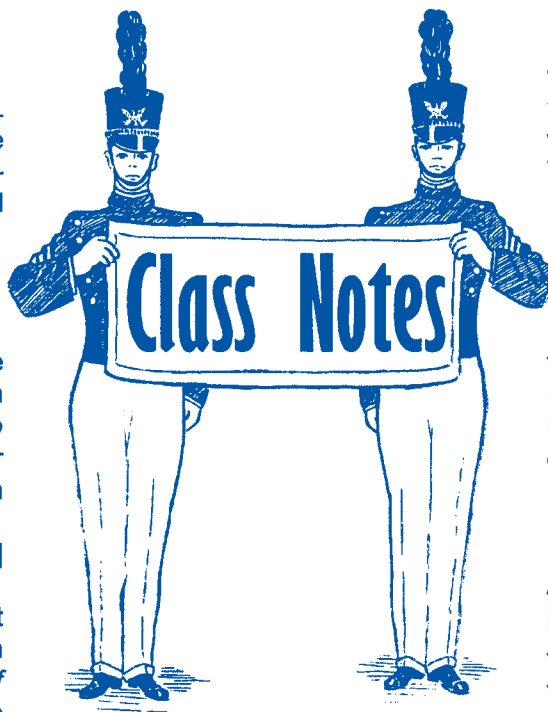
(LARRY KURTZ)

Captain Larry Kurtz, USN, Retd and Jill have moved into an apartment in Port Charlotte, FL. It is distressing to report that Larry's son, Larry, Jr. passed away after heart problems. Larry, you are very much in our thoughts and prayers.

1939

(NONE)

Dr. Mel Alper and Jane are at home



This is the very first place AMA Alumni look when *The Bayonet* arrives.

Your fellow alumni want to hear about YOU, so Class Notes is the first place they look. Here are a few suggestions which we hope you will act on.

SEND us material about yourself – marriages, jobs, travel, births, deaths, retirement and so forth. Don't be concerned if you don't see your news published right away. *The Bayonet* comes out three times a year and if your story misses one issue, it likely will be in the next one. Be sure to send us news about your classmates and AMA friends.

PHOTOS are always welcome but please understand that just because a digital picture looks good on a computer screen, it will not necessarily look good in print. If you send an actual photograph, it should be printed on GLOSSY paper. If you want the picture returned to you, please put your name and address on the back. DIGITAL PHOTOS in jpeg should be AT LEAST 300 dpi. If you can send a photo in tiff format, that will be even better!

MAIL your story and photos to: *The Bayonet*, 1687 Schillers Court, Folsom, CA 95630

E-MAIL a story and any digital photos to: AMABayonet@aol.com

FAX a story to 916/817-8596

in Maryland instead of spending the winter in warmer climes. Jane had a fall and broke both her leg and her wrist and was hospitalized as a result. We are hoping that she is much improved by now and that we will see them at Reunion 2009.

Buddy McCausland lost his wife, Sallie, in February of 2006. Very sorry to hear about this, Buddy. He is a retired real estate broker in Lynchburg and a most faithful *Bayonet* correspondent.

1942

(EARL CABANISS)

Angus Hines at age 85 has sold a part interest in his Beech Baron. *"I sold two thirds of the aircraft to two surgeons which worked out well – until one of them forgot a small detail when landing: lower the landing gear before you land. It bellied out on a concrete runway and the insurance company totalled the bird."* Now, Angus is putting two new Caterpillar C-18 engines on his boat *"to get ready for the next 30 years!"*

[angushines@aol.com]

1947

(MIKE WELCH)

Dr. Tom Callahan is in the part time practice of psychiatry in Fresno, CA. He received his BS from MIT and his MD from the University of Heidelberg.

Bob Huntsberry has sold a 209 acre field near Winchester to the Civil War Preservation Trust for \$3.35 million. The sale will preserve a 575 acre tract much as it was when the Third Battle of Winchester raged there in 1864 with 3,000 casualties, the opening volley of Union General Sheridan's Shenandoah Campaign. The purchase is being funded through a partnership among the Shenandoah Battlefields Foundation, the Civil War Preservation Trust, the State of Virginia and private partners and depends on raising nearly \$700,000 from private funds. Huntsberry said that he and his family *"feel strongly that this important battle-ground needs to be preserved for future generations."*

1948

(ERNEST CLICK)

Bob Abrams is settled at his new address in LaConner, WA. The former Disney animator and fantastic artist enjoys the beauties of the Northwest.

[r.abram13@verizon.net]

George Crispen, Jr. retired from the Naval Engineering Command after a career in the construction industry. He served in the Marine Corps after attending what is now Old Dominion University. He and Sara have been married for 56 years and have two sons and three grandchildren. They live in Corapeake, NC. Thanks for the generous contribution, George.

[gicrispen@embarqmail.com]

Jerry Izenberg has "sort of retired" as the award winning sports columnist for the Newark *Star-Ledger*. He has moved to Las Vegas and will still cover Super Bowls (he has been to every one of them), baseball playoffs, fights and horse racing *"and will write a column from time to time when the spirit moves me."*

[jizenberg@starledger.com]

Roy de la Guardia has been located by **Manuel Balbis** living in Panama. Balbis plans to see Roy, **Carlos Arias** and **Duncan Wong** along with **Ernie Calvo** on his next visit to Panama.

[mbalbis@aol.com]

Neil Lefkowitz wants to contact other members of the Class of 1948.

[Nlefowitz@aol.com]

1949

(FRANK SPENCER & CLYDE RAMSEY)

Gray Kinney wants to be back this year for his 60th anniversary and is trying to work it around family visits from New Zealand. Hope you'll be able to work in both events, Gray! Look forward to seeing you.

[graylouise@mindspring.com]



Mario Garcia, '49, and family pay a visit to the Museum.



Bill Bosley, '52, and his wife at the Museum. Bill's brother, Jim, First Captain in 1961-62, died two years ago.



Dick Gibbs, '50, collects antique cars in Plantation, FL. Above is a photo of Dick from the FOX News Channel.

Louis Philhower also hopes to make his 60th anniversary reunion this April

from his home in Macon, GA. He has retired as a Senior Vice President of Smith Barney.

Jim Sylvanus lives in Lewes, DE and has a new e-mail address.

[slyfox@comcast.net]

Frank Spencer and Ida took a twelve day road trip in Alaska in June driving from Anchorage to Seward to Fairbanks and then back to Anchorage with side trips along the way. Ida now has been to all 50 states.

[2frankspencer@myway.com]

Colonel Jim Council and Mary Alice had a busy 2008: a reunion of the 100th Bomb Wing in Florida, a tour of Brazil with a cruise on the Amazon and Negro Rivers, a cruise through Europe and the AMA Reunion last April. We are always grateful for all the help Jim and Mary Alice provide at each annual reunion.

[jwcouncil@satx.rr.com]

1950

(JIM LUPTON)

Jim Starnes and Mary live in Riderwood Village, a retirement community in Silver Spring, MD. Jim has just finished a term as Chair of the Resident Council representing 3,000 residents. He is now focused on writing a book which we can only imagine has more than a few references to AMA.

[jimstarnes3@comcast.net]

1951

(HAP STARR)

Rod Willey went on a Caribbean cruise in November.

[rswilley8@earthlink.net]

Jack Hodge, retired Chief Engineer of the Virginia Department of Transportation, lives in Blackstone with his wife, Mary Scott. Their granddaughter, a Clemson graduate, is now teaching fourth grade.

[jhodge@volkert.com]

Names in parentheses under each year indicate the Class Agent for that year

1952

(JIM WHITE)

Duncan Wong says that his cousins, **Juan, '44**, and **George, '45**, are alive and well. Juan is a gynecologist and George recently retired from having his travel business. **Carlos, 45**, Juan and George's brother, passed away in December of 1968.

[dwong33@cableonda.net]

Cole Sandridge is a retired underwriting specialist for State Farm. He and Roy Ann live in Charlottesville.

[CWSandridge@aol.com]

1953

(LEW MUNDIN)

Tommy Simmons came up with the idea for the Greater Augusta Regional Chamber of Commerce which has proven to be quite successful. For 45 years, Tommy owned Simmons Parts Company in Staunton and has dependably served the alumni association ever since it was created in 1970.

Commander Alex Wattay, USN, Retired, a Vietnam War vet, planned and executed Veterans Day ceremonies at Hilton Head Island, SC. An overflow crowd heard Al say, *"I and other veterans applaud you for not being ashamed or reluctant to express your appreciation."* The main speaker was Major General James Livingston, USMC, Retired, who won the Medal of Honor in Vietnam.

[Dialwat@aol.com]

Juan Santalo and his wife, Ada, celebrated the Thanksgiving Holiday on board the Norwegian Caribbean ship Norwegian Jewel.

Jock Bair has a new e-mail address.

[jockbair@sbcglobal.net]

1954

(KEN HOKE)

Guy Townsend and Emilie live in Manquin, VA. He is retired after many years in the nursery business.

[wguyemillie@wildblue.net]



Wayne Coffey, '57, lives in Riverdale, GA. While in the Valley, he found an ad for the **AMA Museum** in a Hampton Inn hotel guide. He and his wife came by the museum in October, spent four hours checking it out, and is *"in total awe of what the AMA alumni have accomplished."* Wayne retired from IBM after 30 years.

[wayne_orders@hotmail.com]

Frank Suter is with P&B Sales and Service in the Equipment Sales Division in Stone Mountain, GA. He and Alice Faye live in Conyers, GA. Frank is a homeowner at Honeycreek and is vice president of the homeowners' association there.

Bob Harris and Kathy welcomed two great-grandchildren in 2008 – Mary Jo Allen, daughter of Mary, and Kaden Matthew Eastep, son of Katie. Bob's heart problem is no more for which we are all grateful.

[bharii@aol.com]

1955

(T. C. LEA)

Bill Johnston farms in Jackson, NC next to land owned by Matt Ransom, IV, the son of **Matt Ransom, '42**, who was killed in action during World War Two. (Bayonet Fall 2008). Thanks for the very generous contributions, Bill!

[billj@3rddoor.com]

T. C. Lea, Jr. has a very rare disease

called corticobasal degeneration or CBD, a progressive neurological disorder which has symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease. T.C. didn't send Christmas cards because he can no longer write. So sorry to hear this sad news. Please know that we are thinking about you. Fight on!

[tlea1@verizon.net]

1957

(GOODLOE SAUNDERS)

Jim Hume wonders what has become of **Harry Sommers** from his class. The last address we have for Harry is five years old and showed him living in Lake Charles, LA. If anyone knows Harry's whereabouts, please notify *The Bayonet* and Jim. Jim lives in San Mateo, CA.

[jcdhume@sbcglobal.net]

Buddy Krise now has five grandchildren adding Haley to Terry, Kathy, Olivia and Ashley. Buddy lives in Norfolk with his wife, Sandra and retired several years ago as a heavy equipment and crane operator.

Julian "Butter" Byrd has had a 40 year career as an actor and a voice over announcer playing the part of the policeman in *Porky* and appearing on *Miami Vice*. Now retired, he lives in Oakland Park, FL.

1958

(DUKE FANCHER)

Charles Carver was travelling up I-81 when he saw the signs leading to the AMA Museum. Charles sells real estate in Eatonton, GA.

Don Radford came down to Fort Defiance from Geneva, NY to attend Reunion 2008 and discovered to his chagrin that he was the only cadet from his class who came back for their 50th anniversary. *"I am coming again this year and hope I will see some of my classmates."* So, you fellows from the Class of '58: don't disappoint Don again!

[dradford@rochester.rr.com]

1959
(DAVE CONRAD AND
LLOYD EASTLACK)

Walter Anderson has retired as the Managing Director of Wachovia Securities in Richmond where he continues to reside.

[walteranderson1@hotmail.com]

Lloyd Eastlack has sold his tackle shop in Wilmington, NC and is working with Intracoastal Angler building lures and answering questions from ancient anglers. He also is volunteering with the Boy Scouts. Last May, he got the bad news that his granddaughter had cancer. *"She has been going back and forth to Sloan in New York and seems to be improving,"* he says. Lloyd has had a knee replacement and now is trying to put together a reunion of AMA alumni in Carolina.

[Baitco@aol.com]

Bill Blakely, Jr. is the retired Safety Manager for the Martin Army Community Hospital at Fort Benning. He and Juliette live in Flat Rock, NC and have six grandchildren – the latest being little Samantha.

[blakelywm@bellsouth.net]

Keene Byrd is the Administrator of the Bath County Historical Society in Warm Springs, VA. He lives in Hot Springs near The Homestead.

1960
(FRANK WILLIAMSON
AND LUKE SNYDER)

Tom Douglas retired from Johns Hopkins University's Campus Safety and Security Department on 1 July 2008 concluding a 39 year career in law enforcement and security. Tom hopes to consult with institutions that need help complying with the 1990 Campus Security Act. He lives in Jarrettsville, MD

[Kinsale333@aol.com]

George Holt, who retired as President of Holt Sublimation and Printing after 43 years, has eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild named Ava Celeste.

[gholt3@triad.rr.com]



MR. AND MRS. CONRAD - Dave, '59, and Carol were married on 11 October with families and friends in attendance. They honeymooned on a Royal Caribbean cruise ship.

[gramof9@localnet.com]



Hans Lobisch, '63, visits the courtyard in Big Barracks, an area most often closed to visitors. This was his first time back and he and his wife, Judy, were *"very impressed"* with the museum.

1961
(JACK STEELE)

Harold "Bud" Allison lives in Austin, TX. Bud has two e-mail addresses:

[ballison@austin.rr.com or
ballison@wyoming.com]

Lee Jackson lives in Southern California where he works with local artists who create murals. This follows what he did for seven years in the

Dallas area and eight years in Denver working with artists all over the world to create murals. A native of Ocean City, MD, he had a business there for twelve years before moving West. While living in Colorado, he and his family became skiers and they own a condo in Breckenridge.

Jim Crawford has retired in Atlanta as Sales Director for Nortel Networks. Jim and Betty have a new e-mail address.

[JFCrawford@ME.com]

Dan Chichester lives in Falmouth, VA where he is Commonwealth's Attorney. He is on the board of the National District Attorneys Association.

1962
(BOB GEBEAUX AND
BOB RIDGEWAY)

Commander Gerald Dawson has been found after having been missing from our flock for several years. He lives in Lewisburg, WV.

Bill Keller and Joan now have ten grandchildren, *"a full baseball team and a bat boy!"* The latest additions are Jailen, Kevin, Lenny and Cynda. Bill retired in 1960 as Vice President of AIG and also retired from the Naval Reserve as a Captain. The Kellers live in Cypress, TX.

[bajkeller@yahoo.com]

1963
(MIKE BASTO)

Ray Clement lives in Greer, SC. He visited the AMA Museum last summer.

1964
(DAVE HOLSINGER AND
PHIL MATTSON)

Ed Sherman is a practicing attorney in New Orleans.

[edsherman@edsherman.org]

Gary Shepard is a school guidance counselor in elementary school and high school sports coach in Clifton Forge.

[gls1449@aol.com]

Randy Rodgers owns Hayes Auto and Truck Sales in Hayes, VA.



Ed Kotz, '63, and Mary visited AMA in the Fall and will be back for the reunion in April.

**1966
(NONE)**

Barry Weeks is a certified financial, tax and estate planner. He lives in Gray, GA, has two children and two grandchildren.

[BbwPlanning@gmail.com]

John Pierpont lives in East Northport, NY. He has been married for 35 years, has a daughter and a three year old granddaughter. John has been selling to the Legal Market for 28 years starting with law books, through CD-Rom and now on line.

[pierpont@optonline.net]

David Beatty graduated from the University of North Carolina and joined the Mecklenburg (NC) Police Force where he served for 30 years. During this time, he also ran security for two entertainment complexes and taught at the Police Academy. Now, he and his wife, Brenda, are enjoying the good life in Blowing Rock, NC.

[dbchetola@yahoo.com]

Jerry Arnold was quick to send off a check to the AMA Alumni Foundation when he saw the pleas for help in the last *Bayonet*. Says he, "If each of us would just send AMA a hundred

dollars, we would be golden!" Right you are, Jerry, and thanks for your enthusiastic response.

Gordon Bennett, after 31 years as a police officer in the City of Richmond, is now an investigator for the State Corporation Commission.

[lbennett93@comcast.net]

**1967
(MAC McINNIS)**

John Botcheller reported that his sweet wife, Nancy, had a fall which resulted in a concussion and hospitalization in Seoul, Korea where they live, but she recovered quickly so they could spend the Christmas Holidays in New York, Boston and in Newport

where they have a house under construction. John is the Chief Financial Officer and Managing Director of Citibank Korea

[john.j.botcheller@citi.com]

Mickey Toms has been organizing a Habitat for Humanity program in his hometown, Cortez, CO. He is the long time Chairman of the Annual AMA Open whose golfers have raised at least \$1,000 a year for the AMA Foundation for the past twelve years. Mickey just welcomed his third grandson. Congratulations!

[cmstoms@earthlink.net]

**1968
(GORDON METZ)**

Charlie Sively lives in Melbourne, FL. He had a hip replacement last August. At AMA, Charlie played soccer, football, lacrosse and JV basketball and was on the wrestling team. Did all that activity help produce the need for the hip replacement?

[csively@cfl.rr.com]

**1969
(NICK SYROPOULOS)**

Frank Roach is CEO of Wolseley North America, the British company that owns Ferguson Enterprises. He and Mary Reid live in Richmond and have two children: Martha Laird, 22, and Alice Keeling, 23.

[Frank.Roach@wolseley.com]

Rex Rumley just found out that in March, he will be a grandpa for the third time. Congratulations, Rex!

[Rex183@insight.rr.com]

Harvey Bowers and Sandy drove down the Alcan Highway from their home in Wasilla, AK to Scottsdale, AZ where he underwent some tests for his cancer, then on to Houston for cancer screening, and finally on to Sugar Grove, WV to visit his parents. Along the way, they examined a number of caves, mineral mines and Net Zero Energy Homes. "We may visit AMA in the Spring and then take a northern route back to Alaska," he says. "There are so many darn things to see in this world – times-a-wasting."

[harvey@agateinn.com]



Ed Davis, '66, with Jennifer and their grandson, Tyler, outside the Big Room. Ed spent five years at AMA as a CW.

Andy Turner lost his father just before Christmas. David Turner, 86, was admitted to the first class of men to attend Madison College.

1970

(JORGE ROVIROSA)

Dalton Williford owns a successful construction business in Chesapeake, VA which he has had for 27 years. He and his wife, Carroll, have three daughters and a granddaughter.

[cwilliford@nps.k12.va.us]

Bob Mitchell is doing well after six open heart bypasses in April of 2007. He is Fire Marshall in Erie, PA and hopes to become a private fire investigator *"when the time is right."* Bob and Kathy have a daughter who is a senior at Slippery Rock University, a son is a senior at Cathedral Prep.

[Bmkitch1018@aol.com]

Billy Parkins has been diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a cancer of the white blood cells.

Billy has been going to the UVA Hospital every six weeks for treatments and says that he is feeling "great." He was there for the parade when VMI honored AMA on 1 November. Billy is the son of **Colonel Will Parkins**, '35, who passed away just before Christmas at the Bridgewater Home in Bridge-water. Bill, you know we are all thinking about you and we share your loss.



**Billy Parkins at VMI
1 November 2008.**

Peter Russell is branch manager for Commodity Futures and Options Services, Inc. in West Jordan, UT.

[pruss29918@aol.com]

Bobby Crozier is a civilian employee (WG-10), Voice and Network Maintenance Tech, 82nd Communications Squadron at Sheppard, AFB, Texas.

The cadet major adjutant his senior year at AMA, Bobby retired from the Air Force after 16 years. He lives in Burkburnett, TX.

[crozierb@yahoo.com]

Jorge Rovirosa and his family spent the Thanksgiving weekend at their second home in Big Canoe in North Georgia.

[Jorovi@Farovi.com]

Tom Hennessy checked in to give us his new e-mail address.

[thomashennessy@wellpoint.com]

Don Fitzgerald got in touch with **Colonel Livick** and is now back on our mailing list. Welcome home, Don. He lives in Honevee, NY.

1971

(GARRY GRANGER)

"Scootch" Melcher, First Captain at AMA his senior year, suffered a stroke last August. The latest report says that he is continuing to improve, can now walk up steps, take the dogs for a walk and while he has trouble with some words, he can say **Jorge Rovirosa**! See story on page 20.

[rmelcher@sbcglobal.net]

Phil Myers has purchased a cabin in West Virginia. He is contemplating retirement from a long career as a fireman, EMT and embalmer/reconstruction specialist. He lives in Falls Church, VA.

[mmeyers8@coc.net]

Garry Granger presided at the AMA Alumni Association Board meeting at VMI on the last day of October, then joined his family for a week in Cancun for a well earned rest.

[GarryFresh@verizon.net]

1972

(LEWIE KENNETT)

Don Malnati is the President of Renovations, Inc. and a partner in the Murillo/ Malnati Group in Silver Spring, MD. Don and his wife, Ragnhild, have a 27 year old son, Dan, who lives in Michigan and has a son three months

old. They also have a daughter, Lisa, who lives in Charlottesville.

Sam Wysong is Senior Logistics Engineer at Lockheed Martin's Undersea and Security Systems in Riviera Beach, FL. He retired from the Navy as a senior chief petty officer. Sam and his long time fiancé, Lois, were married in Hawaii last August at a sunset ceremony on Anini Beach near Hanalei Bay on the island of Kauai.

[sww4@comcast.net]

Tim Cooper is back in Saudi Arabia, a project engineer in the Shaybah Expansion Projects Division of Saudi Aramco. Last Fall, he toured Vietnam, *"a special place to many of my era – to those who volunteered, to those who were drafted and those of us who did not personally experience Vietnam but lived it through stories told by our friends."* He would enjoy hearing from fellows he knew at AMA.

[thomas.cooperjr@aramco.com]

Mark Femrite, AMA First Captain his senior year, has a new granddaughter named Delia Ann Femrite and his daughter Beth who received an AMA Legacy Scholarship married Nathan Brown on the weekend of the last AMA reunion. He says that Sherri is very much enjoying her retirement *"which allows her to keep her honey-do list up to date."* Mark just joined the Roller Society *"having put something in my new will for AMA."* Thank you, Mark. We don't want to collect any time soon! The Femrites live in Riner just outside Blacksburg.

[mfemrite@swva.net]

Rick Ellett and Nancy live on Smith Mountain Lake near Roanoke. He is an independent contractor.

[RELLETT458@aol.com]

Stan McDonald says some people asked about his having changed his last name from Rasbeary to McDonald and *"I want to make clear that I was not running from the law or a paternity suit... My real last name is McDonald and when my stepfather adopted me, he had my last name"*

changed to his: *Rasbeary*. He died in 1979 and I retook my name in 1983." Since getting reconnected with AMA, he has talked with **Steve Traylor, Garry Granger, Rodd Mitchell, Brian McCabe, Larry Debnar, Mike Kidd and Larry Hanning**. "AMA has never far from my thoughts," he says.

[smcdonald@yahoo.com]

1973

(JIM ATCHISON
AND JOE GARRY)

Wayne Childers owns and operates the New Hope Garden Center Landscape and Design in Belmont, NC. He is a past member of the board of directors of the North Carolina Flower Growers Association.

Carl Ray Kellogg has disappeared. The last mailing to him in Smithfield, VA came back "unknown." If you know how to reach him, please let us know!

1974

(NONE)

Yogi Hale now lives in Kissimmee, FL after having moved away from Florida and then deciding to go back and buy his family place. Phone 407/847-3894.

1975

(BRETT THOMPSON)

BG Larry Nicholson and Deb are now at Camp Lejeune awaiting his deployment to Afghanistan.

[larry.d.nicholson@usmc.mil]

Mal Livick, Jr. and Martha are the grandparents of Benjamin Lyle born on 5 January to Wes Livick and his wife, Caroline, which makes **Colonel Mal** and **Linda Livick** great-grandparents. Congratulations all around!

1976

(JIM MITCHELL)

Mike Arrington is very proud of his first grandchild – Alexis Nichole O'Dell – the daughter of his daughter, Amanda, and Scott. "Alexis was five and a half weeks premature and spent her first two months in a neonatal intensive care unit but she is thriving now," says Mike.

[Michael.A.Arrington@nasa.gov]

1977

(SHAWN OGIMACHI)

Charles Livick and Tracey Lee live in Harrisburg, PA. They have six children: Jeffrey, Brittany, Sheena, Charlie, Amber and Kody.

Shawn "Ogi" Ogimachi has been the elected Dean of Counseling at Cabrillo College for the past two years, but did not stand for reelection so he could return full time to teaching. He not only teaches at Cabrillo but also at San Jose State University "for which I feel very fortunate." Ogi says he really misses reunions but the timing of the reunions conflict with his heaviest academic requirements. He and Antionette Marie live in Santa Cruz, CA. [shogimac@cabrillo.edu]

1978

(HENRY HARRIS)

Joel Wilks has been with Kraft Foods for the past 25 years and is Regional Director of Military Sales. He and his wife of 23 years, Karen, live in San Antonio and have two sons: Adam, 21, and Ryan, 18.

[Joel.Wilks@Kraft.com]

Steve Barber is a film maker in Los Angeles. Check out two of his works: www.returntotarawa.com is a film with Ed Harris and a Dan Aykroyd film at www.americanparaplegic.com. He is looking for **Billy Cucinotta**.

[stevenbarber@hotmail.com]

1981

(TODD LIVICK)

Todd Livick, who retired from the Army at the rank of lieutenant colonel, is the lead CDS business developer for all strategic communications and public affairs engagements within the National Security Program. His last active duty assignment was Deputy, Special Assistant for Public Affairs, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He and Andrea have a son, Stephen, 17, and a daughter, Taylor, 14. The Livicks live in Burke, VA. [tlivick@csc.com]

1982

(NONE)

John Tait is back in the fold. **Dave Conrad**, '59, is John's uncle and got

him back on the mailing list. John lives in New Castle, DE.

[scodophi@hotmail.com]

1983

(WAYNE KRESON)

Rodney Butler has been a civilian contractor in Iraq where he trained Iraqis to be police officers. He is now back home in Edgewood, MD.

Wayne Kreson is eager to reconnect with fellows from his era. "I appreciate those who are serving our country in uniform," says Wayne, a Navy veteran.

[wayne_kreson@yahoo.com]

Tim Mannasmith chips in

Tim Mannasmith, who was on the AMA faculty 1967 to 1984, saw that AMA needed help and immediately sent in a generous contribution. Thank you so much, Tim. You have set a great example!

Ben's new knees

As we were ready to go to press, we got the good word that our peerless museum volunteer **Ben Zinkhan**, '60, was recovering quickly after having had both knees replaced. We wish him well and hope Joyce doesn't get worn out taking care of her man. She will have one chore she hadn't counted on – while Ben was knocked out, some gremlin painted his toenails red and now Joyce will have to keep them shiny and red until Ben can once again reach his toes and tend to his own pedicures!

Visitors up in 2008

The number of visitors to the AMA Museum increased in 2008. 1639 visitors signed the guest book last year compared to 1595 in 2007.

The numbers are somewhat misleading because not all visitors sign the guest book and often when a group visits, only one of the group signs the guest register.

In any case, the number of visitors was up last year and considered a very strong number for a museum of our size.

REUNION 2009 SCHEDULE

THURSDAY 23 APRIL

10 AM . . . Alumni House/Museum open
PX open at the museum

Noon - 4 PM . . . Early bird registration
Hospitality Room and PX open
Holiday Inn

Noon - 1 PM . . . Casual golf tee times
Location to be announced

3:30 - 5:00 PM . . . Hospitality Tent open
Holiday Inn

5:00 - 7:00 PM . . . Early arrival cocktails
with heavy hors d'oeuvres
Staunton Country Club
Attire: Business casual

7:30 PM . . . Hospitality Tent reopens
Tower of Power opportunities

FRIDAY 24 APRIL

7:30 AM - 6:30 PM Registration
Holiday Inn

All day Tower of Power

8:00 AM Motorcoach tour to
Hotel Roanoke, Link Museum
*Meet in parking lot nearest
the PX at the Holiday Inn*
Motorcoach courtesy of
Gaye and Bob Hume, '63
Hosted by
Bev and Frank Williamson, '60

8:30 AM Golfers register, photos
Staunton Country Club

9:00 AM . . . AMA Open Golf Tournament
Staunton Country Club
Contact: **Mickey Toms, '67**
[cmtoms@earthlink.net]

9:00 AM - 6:30PM PX open
Hospitality Tent open
Silent Auction begins, Holiday Inn

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
. Alumni House/Museum open

4:30 PM Motorcoach tour returns

5:45 PM AMA Reception
Hospitality Tent

6:30 PM Registration room closes

7:00 PM AMA Awards Banquet
Attire: Coat and tie
Holiday Inn Ballrooms
AMA Scholarship Awards
AMA Alumni Medals
Special Presentations

9:00 PM Hospitality Room and
Hospitality Tent reopen
PX reopens
Silent Auction continues

SATURDAY 25 APRIL

Attire all day: Casual

7:30 AM Light breakfast served
in the AMA Alumni Association
Annual Membership Meeting Room
at the Holiday Inn

8:00 - 8:30 AM Final registration
outside meeting room

8:30 AM . . . Annual membership meeting
followed immediately by
AMA Alumni Board of Directors

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
. Alumni House/Museum open
Display of military equipment
Courtesy of **Rich Van Breedon**

**Confederate re-enactor encampment
Lily Valley**

11:00 AM . . . Founder's Day ceremonies
Augusta Stone Church Cemetery
honoring AMA faculty and staff
who are buried there
Master of Ceremonies: **Luke Snyder, '60**

Colors: AMA Alumni Color Guard

Cummings Battery of Cape Fear Artillery
Commanded by Captain John Butler

Alumni who have passed on since
Reunion 2008 will be remembered

Stonewall Brigade Brass Ensemble
Taps by **Phil Myers, '71**

11:45 AM . . . Roller Society Ceremony
Memorial Paver Garden in front of
AMA Alumni House/Museum
Taps by **Phil Myers, '71**

12 Noon 10th Anniversary of the
AMA Alumni House/Museum
in front of the museum

12:15 PM . . . Soupie by **Phil Myers, '71**
Lunch, AMA Gymnasium
Colors: AMA Alumni Color Guard

Honors to AMA Alumni who died
in the Korean and Vietnam Wars

White Table and Flag Ceremony

Speaker:
Jorge Roviroso, '70
honoring "The Spanish Boys"

Induction of new members of the
AMA Sports Hall of Fame
Garry Granger, '71 and
Frank Williamson, '60



*Immediately following lunch,
proceed to the Parade Ground*

Cannonade by Cumming's Battery
Cape Fear Light Artillery
Commanded by **Captain John Butler**
Drill exhibitions by
Massanutten Military Academy
and the **AMA Roller Rifles**

Immediately following exhibitions
Knock Out Drill led by
Major Corbo of MMA

Alumni House/Museum
will be open until 4:30 PM

3:00 PM Hospitality tent reopens

3:00 PM Sporting clays shoot
Flying Rabbit, Harrisonburg
Contact **Blaine Clarke, '72**
[nuorses53@aol.com]

6:00 PM Open bar
Class meeting and class photos
Holiday Inn hallway
Final hours for Silent Auction bids!

7:00 PM
CASINO NIGHT COCKTAIL PARTY,
a FUNdraiser for the AMA Foundation
with heavy hors d'oeuvres and
drinks - Beer \$2 - Cocktails \$5
Holiday Inn Ballrooms

8:30 PM Silent Auction closes
9:00 PM . . . Winning bidders announced

9:00 PM Dessert Extravaganza!

SUNDAY 26 APRIL

9:00 AM Alumni Fellowship Buffet
Holiday Inn

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Alumni House/Museum open

12 Noon Roller Riders
depart from in front of Big Barracks



of excellence

AS HARD AS IT IS TO BELIEVE, 2009 will mark the 10th anniversary of the AMA Alumni House/Museum.

In this past decade, we have seen a long held dream come to life and surpass our most

lavish expectations! Reunion 2009

will salute these past ten years

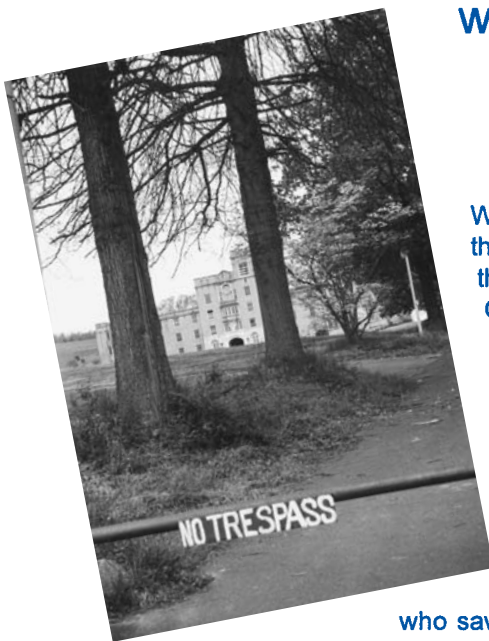
which have seen AMA's

legacy grow ever

more secure.

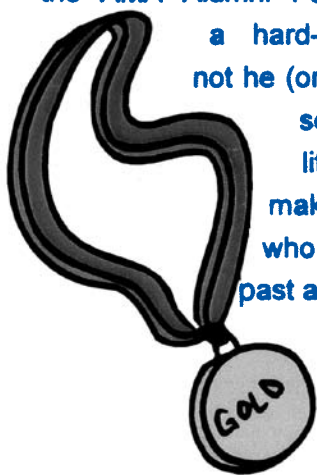
We remember how our campus looked more than a decade ago, left, and we all were thrilled when Colonel Will Parkins, '35, raised Old Glory over the stately but dilapidated Roller family home at Reunion 1999, right. Workmen were still working on the house at the time of the reunion, below, left. But soon Duke Fancher, '58, and Luke Snyder, '60, could sit on a new front porch behind a sign proclaiming that the AMA Museum was open! In the next *Bayonet*, we will salute the forward looking alumni and AMA friends

who saw great possibilities and persevered to triumph.



ALUMNI MEDAL

It is time to nominate those who have done some extraordinary things for the AMA Alumni Association or the AMA Alumni Foundation. Perhaps a salute to a hard-working volunteer whether or not he (or she) is an alumnus. Or a nod to someone who does countless little things which when totalled make a big difference. Those who have earned a Medal in the past are eligible (unless they are on the Medals Committee).



Have you a candidate for this highest of AMA honors?

Submit your nominee or nominees to:

AMA Medal, P. O. Box 100,
Fort Defiance, VA 24437

Or e-mail to: AMAAlumniHouse@aol.com.

**NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED
NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 28 MARCH**

THE AMA ALUMNI MEDALS COMMITTEE

**Garry Granger, '71 + Frank Williamson, '60 +
Goodloe Saunders, '57 + Rod Willey, '51 +
Ed Click, '50 + Bob Bradford, '50, Chairman**

AMA Legacy Scholarships

Four fortunate young people each will receive a \$2,000 AMA Legacy Scholarship during Reunion 2009!

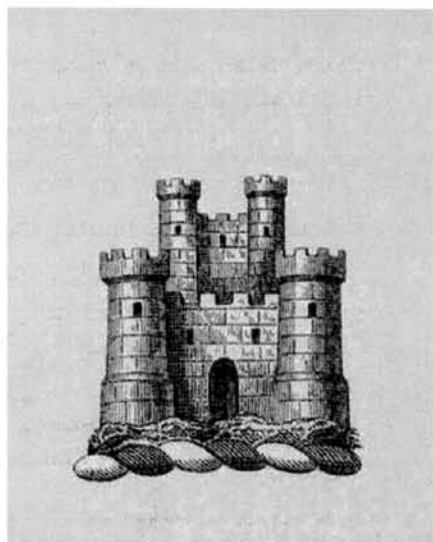
Now is the time to submit your application for one of these four awards. If you are the direct descendant of an AMA alumnus (child, grandchild, great-grandchild, etc. whether natural, adopted or step), have finished or about to finish high school and are 25 years old or younger, **YOU ARE ELIGIBLE!**



Applications can be obtained from the AMA Alumni House, P. O. Box 100, Fort Defiance, VA 24437. You can also obtain an application at: AMAAlumniHouse@aol.com. Or you can download an application from the AMA web site: www.AMAAlumni.org

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY 20 MARCH 2009

**Scholarships will be awarded at the Awards Banquet
on Friday 24 April during Reunion 2009.**



THE TOWER OF POWER!

You will be able to win bottles of Virginia Gentleman on both Friday and Saturday nights! Tickets will be on sale at the Registration Desk and at other venues at Reunion 2009. Prize drawings will take place both nights. Be on the lookout for ticket salespersons. They'll be looking for you! The entire purpose of Frank and Bev's Tower of Power is to raise money for dear ole AMA!



On Friday, our luxury motorcoach tour will travel to The Star City of the South and the famous Link Museum.

The destination is **ROANOKE** where we will visit the O. Winston Link Museum, the world famous display of America's steam locomotive era photos. Link brought his camera down from New York to capture the majesty of the last days of steam along the Norfolk and Western, the last major railroad in the country to operate steam engines.

Former First Captain Roger Messick, '52, has highly recommended the museum.

There will be lunch at the Hotel Roanoke, a landmark hotel, featuring its famous peanut soup. Then a visit to the extraordinary Farmers' Market and possibly the Virginia Transportation Museum, and finally a trip to the top of Mill Mountain which overlooks the city where the Blue Ridge Parkway passes by.

SIGN UP ON THE BLUE REGISTRATION FORM!
PRICE INCLUDES THE MOTORCOACH plus ADMISSION TO ALL SITES AND LUNCH AT THE FAMOUS HOTEL ROANOKE.



The Hotel Roanoke

Your hosts will be Bev and Frank Williamson, '60. The motorcoach is courtesy of Gaye and Bob Hume, '63.



At the Link Museum

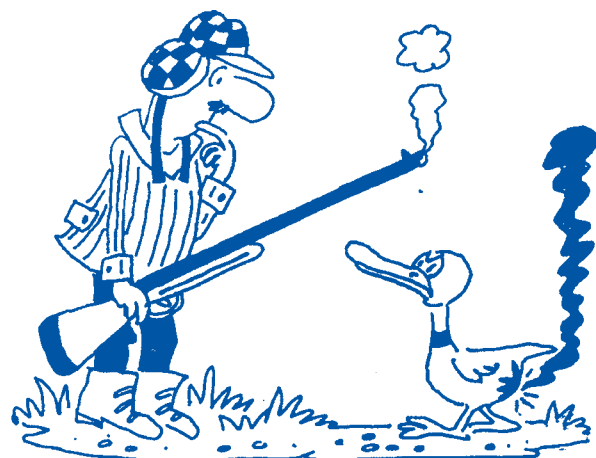


Roller Rifles prepare for reunion

Our Roller Rifles will march again at Reunion 2009! If you marched with this wonderful drill team these last few years, you know what a thrill it is! Almost like marching in the Apple Blossom Festival without the apple blossoms (but with dogwoods in full bloom, above). If you have watched our drill team perform, you know that it is a highlight of the entire reunion weekend. It is the **ONE ACTIVITY** that gives everyone a sense of what it was like to be an AMA cadet!

If you would like to march with the Roller Rifles at Reunion 2009 on Saturday afternoon 25 April, let us know. *It is not required that you have been in the Roller Rifles when you were at AMA!* There are alumni who had not shouldered a weapon for 30 years and they looked great.

Bud Oakey, '70, is taking the responsibility this year for assembling the drill team. Contact Bud right away at: boakey@advantusstrategies.com or call him at: 804/228-4505. So, don't be shy. Get in touch with Bud right away by e-mail or by phone.



A list of hotels for Reunion 2009

Don't be disappointed - make your reservation now!

Reunion Headquarters Hotel
Holiday Inn Golf and Conference Center
Newly redecorated! \$89.99 a night
 Exit 225 off I-81 at Virginia Route 275
 152 Fairway Lane, Staunton
 540/248-6020 or 1/800/932-9061

Quality Inn

\$61 a night
 96 Baker Lane
 Staunton
 540/248-5111

Hampton Inn

\$102 a night
 15 Four Square Lane
 Fishersville
 I-64 Exit 91
 Nine miles from Holiday Inn
 540/213-9500

Days Inn

\$51 a night
 273 D Bells Lane
 Staunton
 540/248-0888
 Contact: Rachel

Residence Inn by Marriott

\$109 a night
 44 Windigrove Drive
 Waynesboro
 I-64 Exit 94
 12.5 miles from Holiday Inn
 540/943-7426

Best Western

\$79 a night
 I-81 Exit 222
 92 Rowe Road
 Staunton
 Four miles from Holiday Inn
 540/885-1112
 1/800/752-9471

Hampton Inn

\$102 a night
 40 Payne Lane
 Staunton
 I-81 Exit 220
 Five miles from Holiday Inn
 540/886-7000

Econo Lodge

\$46.99 a night
 1031 Richmond Road
 Staunton
 540/885-5158

**The AMA Alumni Association
 does NOT make hotel or
 motel reservations.
 Reserve your room now!**

Sporting clay shoot Saturday

Bring your own weapon or we will furnish one for you. Then, ride up Route 11 to the Flying Rabbit around 3 PM on Saturday 25 April. **This will be after the events on the Drill Field including the Roller Rifles performance.**

Organizer **Blaine Clarke, '72**, says he'll need at least three other shooters to reserve the time. Contact him at: Blaine.Clarke@comcast.net or if you prefer to talk with him, phone 301/540-6455.

CASINO NIGHT AND COCKTAIL PARTY

WITH HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES AND
A DESSERT EXTRAVAGANZA !

SATURDAY NIGHT AT 7



CRAPS! TEXAS HOLD 'EM!
BLACK JACK! ROULETTE!

SINK
A
PUTT
and
WIN
10
GRAND
!!!



What a great time everyone had at the last two Casino Nights! You can win some big bucks for yourself and support AMA at the same time!

WIN \$100! \$200!
EVEN \$300!



Prizes all through
the evening!

PRIZES FOR THE MOST CHITS AT
THE END OF THE NIGHT. YOU'LL
START THE EVENING WITH
\$10,000!

Plan now to *SPEND* the evening with
us – with the accent on *SPEND*!

YOU WILL NOT BE PLAYING AGAINST THE HOUSE!

"Spanish Boys" to be honored at the reunion

They came from many countries in Central and South America – from Cuba, Brazil, Venezuela, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic. From Panama, Puerto Rico, El Salvador, Paraguay, Mexico, Costa Rica and Honduras. From Nicaragua, Ecuador, Columbia, Peru, Bolivia and Chile.

Some arrived in Fort Defiance knowing scarcely a word of English. Others came with a firm grasp of the language. Both were placed in an environment which required an extra skill set to survive and to succeed. Their contributions to diversity at AMA were without parallel. We all learned so much from them!

At Reunion 2009, we will recognize "The Spanish Boys," a term they use to describe themselves. You'll want to attend the Saturday luncheon in the AMA Gym where they will be singled out for a loud "Ole!"

Silent Auction '09 will offer only "big" items

This year, we are asking you to get in touch with us before you bring items to the Silent Auction.

We plan to limit the number of items offered and want to concentrate on "big ticket" things – like the American Airlines tickets which Tom DelValle, '73, is providing once again.

STOP and think about what valuable thing you might have for the Silent Auction.

Contact Silent Auction Chairman Dave Conrad, '59, to let him know what you plan to bring. Call him at 804/735-8414 or e-mail him at: daveconrad@aol.com.

Thanks for helping us raise money for AMA! It is your chance to get some valuable items at good prices while helping AMA - Win/win any way you look at it!

50/50 is an opportunity for big bucks

At Casino Night the last two years, the 50/50 game provided lots of excitement and delivered several hundred dollars to some lucky person and an equal amount to the AMA Alumni Foundation.

Five dollar bills are deposited in a can with the name of the contributor written on each bill. Near the end of the night, a bill will be drawn from the can. The person whose name is on the bill gets 50 per cent of the total in the can as does AMA.

It is lots of fun and gets more exciting as the evening progresses and the number of bills in the can grows. It is an exciting moment when the bill is drawn and the winner announced. And don't worry – we'll have plenty of five dollar bills available!



AMA Open at the reunion

No, the golfers will NOT have to carry their bags at the 2009 AMA Open but there still may be some huffing and puffing on the course!

Players will tee off at 9 AM at the Staunton Country Club on Friday 24 April. (shotgun start). It will be a four person scramble.

"EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO PLAY:

AMA alumni, AMA friends, men, women and teens! Plan now to join the fun.

There will be prizes for first, second and last place as well as awards for the longest drive and closest to the pin. The fee per player is \$100 which includes 18 holes of golf, green fees, cart rental, box lunch, refreshments, a "goody" bag and a donation to the AMA Foundation. The fee also covers two mulligans!

Sign up for the golf tournament by completing the form on the outside back page and sending it off to Fort Defiance.

Also – WE NEED SOME ITEMS FOR THE GOODY BAGS: golf balls, umbrellas, caps, towels, tees, et al. Perhaps your company has some items with the company logo. Great! We'd like to have such for the goody bags. By the way, we will also take CASH!

If you have questions or donations to make, contact the Golf Chairman Mickey

Toms, '67, at 970/564-5904 or by e-mail at: cmtoms@earthlink.net



Tour of France for AMA alumni, friends presented at reunion

A tour of the Normandy Coast of France and a visit to Paris is being planned by Bev and Frank Williamson, '60, for the Fall of this year. While primarily aimed at AMA alumni and their families, the trip will be open to anyone who is interested until the limit of 30 people is reached.

The trip will begin Friday 2 October and return Monday 12 October with a two day extension for those who want to linger longer in Paris. The trip is priced both with air fare to and from Paris or for those who wish to make their own air travel arrangements or redeem airline points, there will be a land only price. Frank just returned from a trip to Italy operated by the same tour company which will lead the trip to France. "They are superb," he says.

The AMA Alumni Foundation will receive what would normally be Frank's fee. Frank and Bev will be available at the reunion to answer questions.

See the full page ad on page 39.

Holiday Inn gets a major face lift

Since you were back for the 2008 reunion, the reunion headquarters hotel has undergone a major face lift. The Holiday Inn Golf and Conference Center in Staunton has new carpeting in all the lodging rooms, new drapes and window coverings, new bedding and a complete renovation of bathrooms including ceramic tile, marble counter tops and new showers and shower coverings.

Barbara Swisher, Director of Sales, says that there are also new carpets in the Holiday Inn Ballrooms where the Awards Banquet Friday night and Casino Night on Saturday night will be held. Ballroom chairs are being cleaned monthly, there is new signage and a new front desk reception area with renovated rest rooms just off the lobby.

"The hotel has a whole new look," says Ms. Swisher, "and we are delighted to have AMA choose us once again as headquarters for your 2009 reunion."

Most reunion activities will be at the Holiday Inn. The reunion registration desk, hospitality room, hospitality tent and the PX/Silent Auction Room are there and functions including the annual membership meeting are at the Holiday Inn.

Big plans for '49ers

The 2009 reunion is the 60th for the Class of 1949 and Class Agents **Clyde Ramsey** and **Frank Spencer** want to "showcase" their class.

As we went to press, Frank had heard from 25 of the 63 "information sheets" he had requested from class members. "If you are a 49er and you have not sent in your information, please send it to me right away," says Frank. "We are making up a Class Book and we want every member of the Class of '49 to be represented in the book, whether or not you will be able to come to the reunion."

When the Class Books are made up, every one of the 63 on the mailing list will get a copy, says Clyde. "We will be sending another schedule and reunion activity letter after January," he says.

"We are planning some fun activities for our classmates and their families," Frank says. "It will really help us if members of our class will respond so we can do a good job on the book."

The Class of '49 will have its own Hospitality Room at the Holiday Inn including food, drinks and favors.

Help Clyde and Frank by responding to their letters as soon as you can! See you at Reunion 2009!

From a 1929 *Bayonet*
80 years ago

Major Roller Sees Things

Governor Byrd of Virginia, Major Roller of A. M. A., Col. Opie of 1st Regiment of Virginia Volunteers and the mayors of seven cities in the Shenandoah Valley recently made a tour of the Valley in one of Henry Ford's now model tri-motor-ed airplanes, attaboy, Major!



THE BIG BOY'S 50TH VMI ANNIVERSARY - These 1951 photos from *Life* magazine show General Roller at his best. Above, with his VMI roommate, General of the Armies George Marshall, and Colonel Morgan Hudgins, the Superintendent of Fishburne. Above, right, the Big Boy gives Colonel Hudgins and another 1901 classmate "a lift." Thanks to Terry Barkley for getting these Life photos to us. Credit: Ralph Morse.

Eight new inductees into AMA Sports Hall of Fame

Eight Augusta athletes – two of them coaches – will be inducted into the AMA Sports Hall of Fame in ceremonies in the AMA Gymnasium on Saturday 25 April during Reunion 2009.

A board of judges representing myriad classes plus three former faculty members made the selections from more than 100 nominees. This is the second year of the Hall which inducted 19 in its first year.

Selected this year, in alphabetical order, are **Wayne Blaylock, '62**, (football, basketball, track), **Henley Carter, '65**, (football, baseball), the late **Nick Forkovich, '41**, (football), **Don Johns, '49**, (football), **Sergeant Joe Josephson**, (football and basketball coach), **Sergeant Don Studer**, (rifle team coach) **Meb Turner, '49**, (wrestling, football) and **Al Zayas, '72** (lacrosse).



The Sports Hall of Fame was created to honor those athletes, coaches and sports writers/broadcasters who brought honor to AMA, either while they were in school or afterwards.

Sixteen different sports were played at AMA during the time the school was open, some of which many alumni would not remember, and others which were introduced in the last days that the school was in operation: baseball, basketball, boxing, cavalry, cross country, fencing, football, golf, lacrosse, rifle, rugby, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and field and wrestling.

The judges were, in alphabetical order, **Doug Carter, '72**, **Cecil DePriest, '43**, **Sergeant Joe Josephson**, **Colonel Mal Livick**, **Chris Meek, '84**, **Julian Quarles, '35**, **Bobby Rhea, '47**, **Sergeant Don Studer**, **Nick Syropoulos, '69**, and **Brett Thompson, '75**.

General Charles S. Roller, Jr. was the first person to enter the Hall based on his lifetime commitment to athletics and his dedication to the needs of his boys who played on his teams. **Linda Roller Livick** accepted for her grandfather.

Wayne Blaylock, '62

Wayne burned up the hardwood for more than three years and earned an honor no other AMA cadet could claim – election as a National High School All American.

Wayne also earned for himself a Military Prep School All American running back title.

And he ran track for five of the six years he was at Augusta.

In addition to his prowess on the basketball court, the football field and the AMA track, he was Captain of Headquarters Company, on the Honor Committee, a student body officer and *Ad Astra per Aspera*. Wayne Blaylock – elected to the 2009 AMA Sports Hall of Fame.



Henley Carter, '65

A day student who was a powerhouse on the football field, Henley played quarterback and defensive back for two seasons when AMA was in the tough Virginia Military School League where the other schools had mainly post-graduates playing for them.

In 1965, AMA beat SMA for the first time in a long time and Henley did a little of everything – running, passing, receiving and playing defense.

Carter set a number of team records at Augusta and racked up a record in offensive yards.



The athletic director Fork Union said he had never seen a player take a beating like Henley and continue to play every minute of the game. Henley Carter – elected to the 2009 AMA Sports Hall of Fame.

Nick Forkovich, '41

Nick Forkovich carried the AMA football team on his broad shoulders. In 1939, AMA beat SMA 69 to nothing and Forkovich scored most of Augusta's touchdowns.

After the Tobacco Bowl in Richmond, The Richmond *Times-Dispatch* said that Nick was the best high school football player they had ever seen.



-Photo, courtesy William & Mary Alumni Office

He also starred in baseball and basketball and was a member of the Monogram Club.

Nick played pro ball for the Brooklyn Dodgers football team and was coach of the Bridge-water College eleven. Nick's son, **Jim, '68**, went to AMA. Nick passed away in 1998.

Nick Forkovich – elected to the 2009 AMA Sports Hall of Fame.

Sergeant Joe Josephson

Sergeant Joe first came to AMA when he was part of the Army Junior ROTC military staff. After he retired, he came back to Fort Defiance to coach football and basketball.

Joe was Head Coach of the football team for eight years and never had a losing season.

He had undefeated seasons in 1973 and 1975.

Joe's 1978 team won the VIC Championship. He spent six years at AMA as the assistant basketball coach and four years as head coach. The first year in the VIC, Joe's team was undefeated.



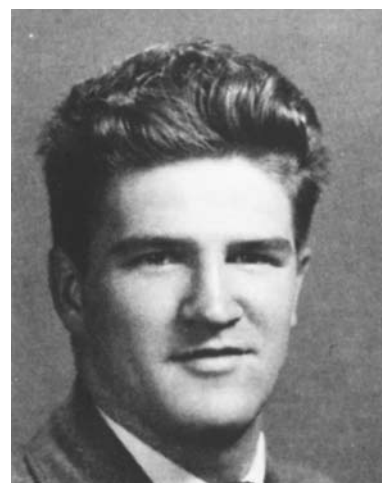
Joe Josephson – elected to the 2009 AMA Sports Hall of Fame.

Don Johns, '49

Don Johns was a five letter man in five sports for all three years he was at AMA.

He earned 15 major monograms in football, baseball, basketball, swimming and track.

A great offensive player, he was a star in both of AMA's trips to the Orchid Bowl in Chattanooga where the Blue and White easily defeated other high school champions.



Don ran in the relay on the track team and was a dependable team player.

He was voted Best Athlete at AMA in 1949. The 1949 *Recall* said: "Don is the best athlete ever at Augusta."

Don Johns – elected to the 2009 AMA Sports Hall of Fame.

Sergeant Don Studer

Don Studer also first came to AMA in the military department and during the eight years that he coached the rifle team, they won the State Invitational Meet at VMI four times (1970, 1976, 1981 and 1982).

The AMA Rifle Team won first place in the Texas A&M Postal Match in 1971.

Don was the only coach in the 1980's to have an undefeated team. His rifle team members attest to his skill as a coach.

Studer was Chairman and Director of the Virginia National Rifle League. This led to his teaching marksmanship at the Blue Ridge Community College.



Don Studer – elected to the 2009 AMA Sports Hall of Fame.

Meb Turner, '49

Dr. Meb Turner, former President of the University of Baltimore, has been elected to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.



In two years at AMA and four years at the University of Virginia, he was undefeated in different weight classes. He scored 271 points to his opponents' 37.

He captained the UVA wrestling team and was the State 165 pound champion.

He went on to wrestle with the New York Athletic Club and was

an AAU wrestling champion in 1957. At AMA, he also played guard on the Orchid Bowl Championship team and the same position at UVA. He was inducted into the Maryland Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Meb Turner – elected to the 2009 AMA Sports Hall of Fame.

Al Zayas, '72

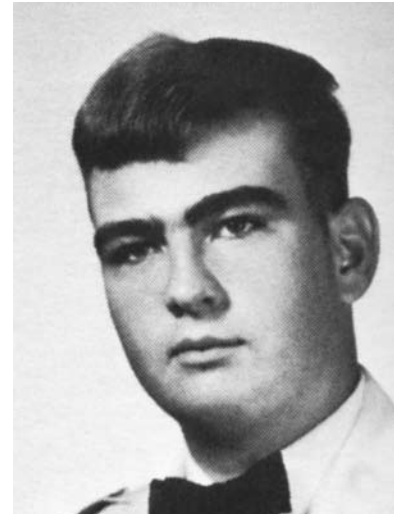
Coach Ed Hart called Al Zayas "the best goalie in the game," a very high compliment from a tough coach.

Al was a three year starter at AMA. During his three years, AMA only lost one contest. He had four one-on-one saves in one game against Mercersburg which AMA won by one point in overtime.

After the game, the Mercersburg lacrosse coach asked Al if he would consider coming to Mercersburg as a PG lacrosse player. Quite a tribute!

In his third year, AMA played Washington and Lee's JVs and led 2-0 at halftime. Then W&L put in some varsity players but Al held them off and AMA won 3-0.

Al Zayas – elected to the 2009 AMA Sports Hall of Fame.



Scotch's stroke offers a pointed symptom reminder

The hope is that some thing good will come out of some terribly negative experience.

Last August, Former First Captain **Ron "Scotch" Melcher, '71**, had a stroke. While it was a horrid surprise to family and friends, Scotch had some telltale symptoms that could and should have sent him flying to seek medical help.

Before the stroke, Scotch was complaining about leg cramps and he had blacked out a couple of times. One night, the cramping was so bad that his wife, Jan, found him sitting on the floor, pushing against the wall, trying to get rid of a severe leg cramp.

He scheduled an appointment with a neurologist but had a stroke before he got to see the doctor.

Scotch and his family want to pass along some of the warning signs for the AMA family.

Did you know that cramping or a "charlie horse" is a stroke symptom?

Numbness in one's hands or feet is another sign that there may be a stroke on the way.

Unusual headaches, losing one's balance, not being able to speak a simple sentence or having a "crooked" smile may also indicate danger.

If you ask someone to stick out his or her tongue and it leans to one side, that is a symptom.

If the person cannot raise either or both arms, call for help.

Call for **immediate** help! Like so many other maladies, **TIME** is the most crucial element. There are clot-busters which can save lives and physical impairment but every minute wasted makes it less likely that the medications will work fully.

Augusta men are macho men and probably are the last people on earth to seek medical help – but would you prefer to be embarrassed temporarily or handicapped permanently?

There are many risk factors which

make strokes more likely: high blood pressure (140/90 or above), tobacco use, diabetes, carotid or other artery disease, TIA's or mini-strokes, atrial fibrillation and other heart diseases.

Out of this list, Scotch's only risk was that he smoked.

If one person and one person alone profits from Ron's ordeal, it will be a blessing to him and his family.

Jan says that if Scotch's friends would like to call him, his number is 216/741-3391.

The cards, letters, visits and prayers have all been gratefully received by Scotch and the family.

For more information on strokes, the symptoms of strokes and treatments, go to: www.americanheart.org or to: www.stroke.org. Share the information with everyone you love. And don't be afraid or embarrassed to seek medical help quickly if you think you or someone you love is about to have a stroke.



REMEMBERING MATT RANSOM - Rachael and Robert Dirr, grandchildren of John Younger, '43, visited the Madingly American Military Cemetery in Cambridge, England to pay their respects to Matt Ransom, III, '42, a friend of Younger's who died in a World War Two plane crash. Rachael and Robert are the children of John's daughter, Dr. Louise Ledbetter and Gary of Lebanon, TN. The children left an AMA emblem and Matt's senior picture at his grave and later lit a candle for him in the Salisbury Cathedral. Dr. Ledbetter said that *"Matt is in a reverent, honored and peaceful, immaculate place. The site is strolled by appreciative English and there are flowers there from people who never knew these soldiers."*



IN HONORED GLORY - Frank Williamson, '60, and Bev led a fall tour of Italy including a visit to the American Sicily-Rome Cemetery at Nettuno, just east of Anzio and 40 miles south of Rome. AMA Alumni Charles Hanes, '32, and James White, '37, are buried at Nettuno. Williamson placed an AMA flag at the grave of each. Here he is shown at the grave of Hanes who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for valor. Williamson also gave a flag to the cemetery superintendent who in turn reciprocated by presenting to Frank the official cemetery official coin. Later, an AMA coin was sent to the Superintendent. The AMA Museum has a new display honoring alumni who are buried in foreign graves.

Staunton "quaint town" say Post and The Week

Maira McLaughlin has written an article for the Washington Post about Staunton, an article reprinted in part in The Week.

"Staunton is not cute or fancy," she says. "It shuts down early, wakes up late and there is not a single Starbucks in town... Many of the Victorian

houses on Beverley Street bear plaques attesting to their historical importance... and history buffs can tour the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum.

"The American Shakespeare Center's Blackfriars Playhouse claims to be the world's only re-creation of the Bard's indoor theater. The Staunton Grocery serves up meals that are fresh and inventive and there's an outdoor farmers' market on Satur-

days. The Skyline Drive is a great place for hikers, cyclists and picnickers and nearby wineries offer tours."

Says B. J. d'Orsay, '70, *"Those of us who went to AMA probably did not think of Staunton as the charming place that it is. Just walking along the beautiful streets takes you back in time."* When you plan your reunion trip, put in some time in Staunton. For more information, check the city out online at: Stauntonweb.com

Will Parkins had maps for invasion of Japan

In August of 1945, unaware that American scientists in New Mexico had just detonated the first atomic bomb, **Army Captain Will Parkins, '35**, was aboard an American ship churning through the Pacific. With him were 48 cases of top secret maps for the invasion of Japan, and Will was taking them to the Chief of Engineers in Manila.

Before Captain Parkins arrived in the Philippines, an atomic bomb had dropped on Japan, then another. The invasion, which was estimated to cause a million American casualties and many million Japanese dead and wounded, never took place.

"I have always wondered what happened to those maps," Parkins says. "As an Army engineer, we prepared topographical maps for troops fighting on land and for landing beaches as well as charts for Air Force navigators and maps used by our Navy. When the Japanese surrendered, the maps were no longer needed."

Most AMA alumni remember Parkins as the Post Adjutant at Augusta and the fellow who doled out money from the AMA Bank. Will was raised on a farm near Fort Defiance, the older of twins. He soon discovered that farming was not for him. He was home schooled until the third grade, and then went to school in Mt. Sidney.

Needed what AMA offered

"But at that time, the school in Mt. Sidney only had three teachers for their high school, and I came to AMA to take courses like trigonometry and physics." After finishing at AMA in 1935, Parkins attended VPI (Virginia Tech) where he worked toward a degree in industrial engineering.

When war broke out in Europe, Will registered for the draft. He took his physical in June of 1941 and was called to active duty in September, three months before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Will recalls: *"On September 2, 1941, which just happened to be my 25th birthday, I boarded a bus full of other inductees and headed for Roanoke, then took a train to Petersburg... and on to Fort Lee."* After four weeks, Parkins was sent to Fort Belvoir, home of the Army Engineering School in Northern

Virginia near Mount Vernon. Given the opportunity to attend a Map Reproduction Course, Will accepted, and he was attending that school on 7 December 1941 when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor..

There followed a number of stateside assignments for Will Parkins: Camp Claiborne and Camp Polk, LA; back to Fort Belvoir, and then to Plattsburg, NY where he was assigned to the 649th Engineer Topographical Battalion. He went to Fort Dix, NJ, to Camp Pickett, VA, and to Camp Kilmer, NJ before boarding the *H. F. Alexander* on April Fool's Day 1942 for Oran, North Africa.

While in Africa, he was transferred to the 30th Engineer Topographical Battalion. Based for a while in Affreville, Algeria, he completed a third year on active duty, returning to the States in late 1944. He had a 21 day leave at home, but spent Christmas of that year near Seattle and sailed on New Year's Day 1945 for Honolulu. Stationed at Schofield Barracks, it was from there that he embarked on his mission with the top secret 48 map cases, plans for the never-to-be invasion of the Japanese homeland.

Back home for Christmas

When the war ended, Will came back to San Francisco on a carrier, took a train to Fort Bragg, NC, and was out of the service in time to have Christmas 1945 at home in Augusta County.

Will met his bride-to-be at a Christmas party that year and they married in 1947 and Will went to work at AMA.

Major Roller was a wonderful man," he says. "I ran the bank and had to have money on hand to give cadets when they made withdrawals. Major would go into Staunton to get cash, and by the time he got back to Fort Defiance, he has bought this person a load of coal and that person groceries for a week. He would come back to AMA with no money, and we would start all over again!"

Parkins stayed in the Army Reserve and retired in 1976 with 35 years of service at the grade of lieutenant colonel.

Cadets in the 60's and beyond will remember him as Colonel Parkins.



**Captain Will Parkins,
1952 Recall**



Will Parkins in Algeria, North Africa, 1944

More than 30 years at AMA

Colonel Will Parkins passes away at age 92

Colonel Edward William "Will" Parkins, '35, passed away at the Bridgewater Retirement Community on 23 December 2008 at age 92. For more than 30 years, Parkins a 1935 graduate of Augusta, was the Business Manager and Post Adjutant at AMA.

Will stayed in the USAR for 35 years retiring in 1976 at the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was a member of the Reserve Officers Association, the Augusta County Historical Association and the Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church. AMA cadets will remember him as the man with the money – he ran the school bank.

Colonel Parkins is survived by his son, **E. William "Bill" Parkins, '70**, of Bridgewater. His twin sister, Katie Fulton, died in 2006.



Colonel Will Parkins in 2005



CADET WILL PARKINS, '35 - The only known photo of Will in his AMA uniform.



A memorial service for Colonel Parkins was held in Bridgewater on 30 December. A number of AMA folk were there, l. to r., Ed Click, '50, Mal Livick, Jr, '75, Julian Quarles, '35, Clyde Ramsey, '49, Bill Parkins, '70, Frank Spencer, '49, Rod Willey, '51, Howard Guffey, '48, and Joe McCue, '66.

***He who is deserving of highest acclaim
— come forward to receive the Lord's
blessing and eternal peace***



Tribute to Chief Cole

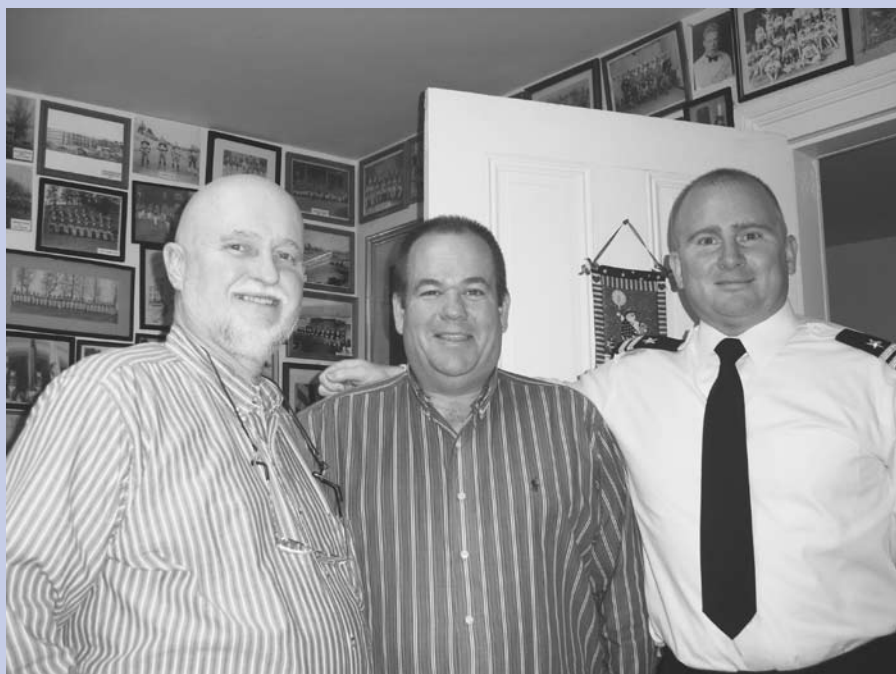
CPO **Chester Cole's** family gathered in the Valley for his funeral, memorial service and reception at the AMA Alumni House/Museum where the Chief labored so selflessly.

Top, the Chief's children, **Scott Cole**, '84, who is stationed in Korea in the Navy, Melinda, who lives in Sydney, Australia, and Scott's children Ray and Michael.

Center, at the museum, **Don Studer**, former faculty member **Major Tim Thompson** who was at AMA its last year, and Scott.

Bottom, Scott with his two sons in one of the museum display rooms. Chief Cole took great pride in showing off the various exhibits in the museum many of which he helped to create.

When he received the AMA Alumni Medal in 2005, the citation read: "Chief Chester Cole is the museum's volunteer curator. Self taught, his work has been prodigious, thorough and effective. He has successfully organized our archives. No one puts in more hours of voluntary effort. He was an Academy instructor, the father of an alumnus and is uniquely qualified as our most talkative docent. His dedication has made the AMA Museum what it is today."



Former AMA instructor

Museum Volunteer Chief Chester Cole, 82, has died

Chief Petty Officer Chester Sidney Cole, who taught at AMA 1980-84, died at the University of Virginia Hospital in Charlottesville 4 December 2008. He was 82. Chief Cole was born in San Diego and had a 20 year career in the Navy serving in the Pacific Theater in World War II and during the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

His son, **Scott Cole, '84**, was in AMA's last class. While teaching at AMA, CPO Cole stayed in what is now the AMA Alumni House/Museum, a place where he would devote many volunteer hours in later years. In company with several cadets, Cole started a small museum in Deane's Castle where two upstairs rooms were dedicated to cadet uniforms, trophies and photos. When the school closed, these items became the basis for our present day museum.

Cole spent countless hours developing a system to catalog the wide variety of items in the museum and did it without any training as a preservationist. For his efforts, the AMA Alumni Association presented Chief Cole with an AMA Alumni Medal in 2001.

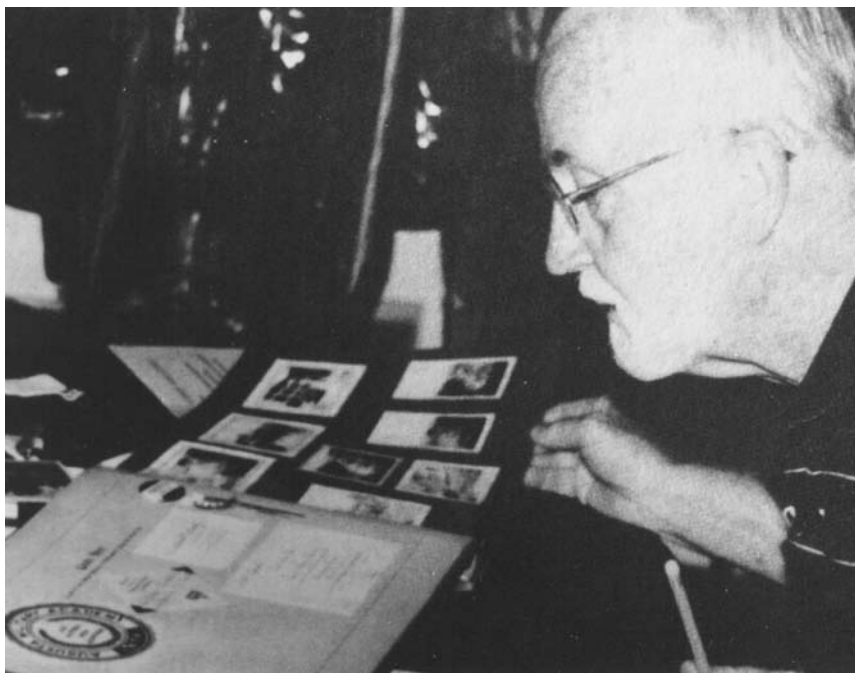
A funeral service was held in Waynesboro followed by a reception at the AMA Alumni House/Museum where Chief Cole had volunteered his services during the first five years that the museum was open. *"He never gave up on the idea of having AMA reopen,"* remembers **Ozzie Ferro, '53**. *"I talked with him several times and getting the school open again was at the top of his agenda."* **Sergeant Don Studer** who worked with Chief Cole as a museum volunteer said, *"He was a most talkative and enthusiastic docent and always made the kids feel a special welcome. The Chief never stopped believing that the school would someday reopen."*

AMA Alumni Vice President **Luke Snyder, '60**, remembers sitting on the front porch of the Alumni House with the Chief *"who gave me a lot of insight on how to show a guest the museum. He was very proud of what the volunteers had accomplished."* **Phil Bentley, '83**, didn't have Cole as an instructor *"but I remember him as an enthusiastic man who jumped in with both feet and never looked back."*

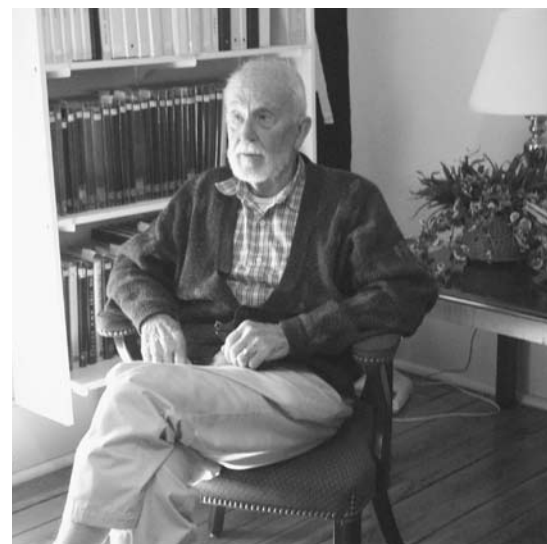
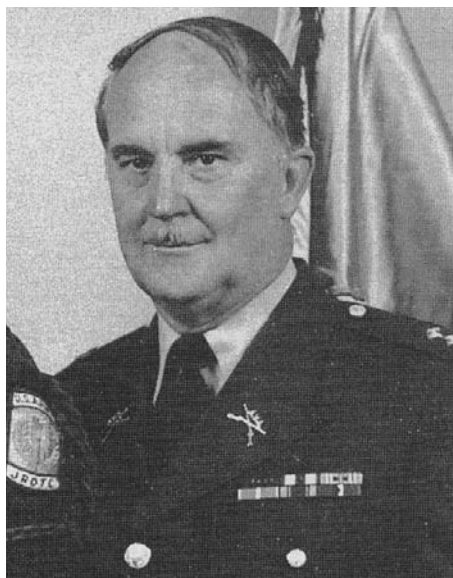
"Chief Cole was very proud of AMA," says Alumni Association President **Garry Granger, '71**. *"He was well versed in the Academy's past and enjoyed telling visitors of our unique past. Duke Fancher, '58, once told me that he could always depend on the Chief to get things done that needed doing."*

In addition to his son, Scott, who is in the Navy stationed in Korea, Chief Cole is survived by a daughter, Melinda, of Sydney, Australia, and two grandchildren. Scott plans to scatter the Chief's ashes when he next has sea duty.

The family asks that donations to the AMA Alumni Foundation be made in Chief Cole's name.



THE CHIEF AT WORK - This photo from 2000 shows Chief Cole cataloging items donated to the new AMA Museum.



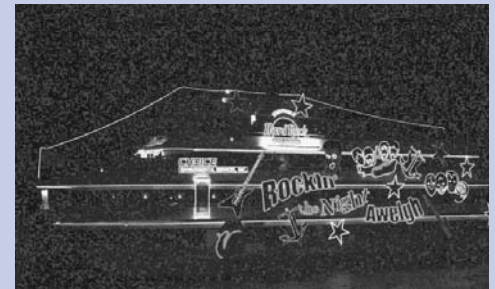
CHRISTMAS IN SOUTH FLORIDA

There will never be a White Christmas in South Florida but AMA alumni living there got into the spirit of the season nonetheless.

The world famous Fort Lauderdale Christmas Boat Parade again gave an opportunity for **Dr. Octavio "Tony" Prieto, '67**, and his wife to welcome area alumni to his lovely home, pictured at right.



AT THE PRIETO'S PARTY - Diane Glick, Grecia Ferro, Lucrecia Balbis, Manuel Balbis, '54, Lynn Prieto, Dr. Tony Prieto, '67, Jorge Rovirosa, '70, Burt Glick, '70, and Oswald "Coyote" Ferro, '54.



Above, Diane Glick, Kiki Rovirosa and Tony Prieto. Below, Burt Glick, Jorge Rovirosa and Manuel Balbis.



The Prietos asked party goers to bring along unwrapped baby toys for the Healthy Babies Coalition of Broward County.

COYOTE PLAYS SANTA - For her birthday present last July, Ozzie Ferro's daughter asked family and friends to bring toys to her at Christmas time for needy kids. Ozzie dressed like Santa and he and his daughter gave away 150 toys at a Catholic Church Christmas party in Homestead, FL.

Where to cut?

Economic realities concern Foundation trustees

The slowdown in the world economy has come home to Fort Defiance as contributions are down considerably from previous years and obligations still must be met.

AMA Alumni Foundation Chairman **Frank Williamson, '60**, said that leaders are looking at all places where expenses can be trimmed. *The Bayonet* is being reduced in size, AMA Legacy Scholarships reduced from \$3,000 to \$2,000 each and AMA Museum expenses cut while keeping the museum open the requisite 36 hours a week to keep the signs up on Interstate 81. Two thousand dollars was approved to continue support for the AMA/VMI Scholarship program

Meeting on the campus of the Virginia Military Institute, the trustees did receive the good news that the money owed for completion of **THE AMA WAY** has been cut to just over \$9,000 thanks to some generous alumni donations to fund the DVD saluting our school. Chairman Williamson has asked for help from alumni and AMA friends in having **THE AMA WAY** aired on public television stations across Virginia. He has requested that anyone with a "connection" to a PBS station should contact **Tina Shafer** at the AMA Alumni House/Museum.

■ Trustee **Richard Whitaker, '72**, reported that the internal audit of 2007 found that everything was in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the trustees.

■ Shafer reported on her attendance at a museum conference in Rochester, NY which resulted in the AMA Museum's getting a conservation grant. (See page 45)

■ Williamson announced that Trustees **Blaine Clarke, '72**, and **Chris Meek, '84**, are looking into a future scholarship for "at risk" young people.

■ Trustee **Garry Granger, '71**, reported that he is in negotiation with the Pentecostal Church over fees they want to charge for the use of AMA buildings at annual reunions.

■ Three trustees will not stand for re-election when their terms are up in April – **Ed Click, '50**, **Rod Willey, '51**, and **Duke Fancher, '58**. A discussion of replacements will take place at the Winter meeting of the Board of Trustees on 6 February at AMA.

■ A refined mission statement for the Foundation is to be discussed at the Winter meeting. An updating of Foundation by-laws also will be discussed.

■ Chairman Williamson's motion to change Tina Shafer's title from Administrator to Executive Director was approved without dissent.

■ Trustee **Bob Bradford, '50**, moved to adopt the financial guidelines proposed by Treasurer Click and the motion was carried.

The trustees met on Friday 31 October in Moody Hall on the VMI campus. Following the meeting, AMA was honored at the Institute's Formal Dress Parade, the VMI Regimental



Foundation Trustees meet at VMI. L. to r., Chairman Frank Williamson, '60, AMA Alumni Association President Garry Granger, '71, Gordon Metz, '68, Jorge Roviroso, '70, and Richard Whitaker, '72.

Band playing AMA's *Alma Mater* as they passed in review.

Both on Friday and Saturday, VMI cadets and faculty gave AMA visitors a tour of the campus with stops at many of the historical sites. Some visited the Marshall Museum dedicated to **General of the Armies** and later **Secretary of State George C. Marshall**, **General Roller's** roommate at VMI in the Class of 1901. Photos of Generals Marshall and Roller at their class' 50th anniversary in 1951 will be found on page 17.



AMA ALUMNI FOUNDATION, INC. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

APRIL 2008 - APRIL 2009

Chairman - Frank Williamson, '60
Vice Chairman - Goodloe Saunders, '57
Secretary/Treasurer - Ed Click, '50 *

TRUSTEES: Bob Bradford, '50

Duke Fancher, '58

Garry Granger, '71 *

Gordon Metz, '68

Richard Whitaker, '72

Rod Willey, '51

NON-VOTING TRUSTEE: Chuck Williams, Raymond James

ADMINISTRATOR: Tina Shafer

* Ex officio

"We need a strong reunion this year"

AMA Alumni Association looks for ways to save

The Board of Directors of the AMA Alumni Association met on the first day of November to discuss future plans in the light of the economic downturn. Of particular concern is having a good turnout at the April reunion where a great amount of enjoyment is accompanied by a number of successful money raising events.

Most funds raised by the Alumni Association are turned over to the Alumni Foundation to fund scholarships, the AMA Museum and *The Bayonet*. Casino Night, the Silent Auction, the AMA Open Golf Tournament, the 50-50 drawing on Casino Night and The Tower of Power brought in the most money at Reunion 2008.

"We need to have a strong reunion this year," says AMA Alumni Association President **Garry Granger, '71**. *"With the price of fuel coming down, it should be easier for our folks to get back to the reunion even with the other economic uncertainties we all are facing."*

Mickey Toms, '67, Chairman of the AMA Open, says that *"Motivating our alumni in an economic downturn may be just the ticket for having the greatest reunion we have ever had! We need to show up and show our true colors and support Augusta when it needs help the most. All the AMA cadets I know have come through some hard times and I just believe we will answer the bell this year."*

Treasurer Ed Click, '50, reported donations down about 40 per cent from the previous year as of 31 October. The investment of funds did not produce interest in the last quarter as the principals declined in value.

● **Directors Bob Bradford, '50, Bud Oakey, '70**, and Granger, discussed having *The Bayonet* available on line. A proposal was made to have alumni either view the free issues on line or beginning in late 2009 pay a nominal subscription fee to cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. It will be necessary to coordinate this with AMA's Webmaster **B. J. d'Orsay, '70**, with whom discussions are now being held. The next issue will have the details on any such program.



THE BOARD met on the VMI campus on Saturday 1 November. L. to r., Don Studer, Al Zayas, '72, Clyde Ramsey, '49, Frank Williamson, '60, Secretary Steve Trent, '70, Executive Director Tina Shafer, President Garry Granger, '71, Chris Meek, '84, Norvell West, '83, Goodloe Saunders, '57, and Frank Spencer, '49. Spencer is a VMI alumnus who made the arrangements for the Alumni Association and the Alumni Foundation to have separate meetings at VMI and for AMA to be honored at the weekly Dress Parade.

● Every effort is being made to hold down the costs at the reunion including hotel and meal charges. Negotiations were continuing at press time.

● Director Bradford offered to prepare personal letters to members of any Honor Class if requested to do so by a Class Agent. President Granger urged Honor Class Agents to take advantage of this opportunity to drum up attendance at the April reunion.

● Board members were asked to seek sponsors for the gaming tables at Casino Night. The cost of putting on the event approaches \$5,000 and that money needs to be raised before the reunion.

● President Granger said that the February meeting of the board would consider creating a new mission statement to acknowledge the differing goals of the Association and the Foundation.

● **Director Mac McInnis, '67**, reported that there is still some \$7,700

owed for the production of THE AMA WAY – down from the \$21,000 figure from last summer.

● **Sergeant Don Studer** asked for help in deciding what to offer for sale in the AMA PX.

● **Director Ben Zinkhan, '60**, reminded board members that the AMA Alumni House/Museum is on a five year painting cycle in order to keep repairs at a minimum.

● **Directors Chris Meek, '84**, and **Steve Trent, '70**, and **Sergeant Don Studer** will look into creating an AMA Medal which can be awarded periodically to a school with a Junior ROTC unit as a way of keeping AMA's legacy alive and current.

● **Director Blaine Clarke, '72**, spoke again about an AMA scholarship for "at risk" students.

● **Director Frank Williamson, '60**, announced an AMA trip to Europe. The details of the trip will be found on page 39 of this issue.



Winter 2009

I have often heard someone say when a death occurs that "I didn't even know that so-and-so was ill." If you have read the preceding two pages, you know that our Foundation is not in good financial health as the economy takes its toll on our investments and the interest from those investments. Our portfolio is down 42 per cent at this writing and there is little or no income from the investments that we have. To keep going, we will now have to invade the principal which further reduces our worth. Whether we can continue doing what we are doing depends very much on how important you think our work is.

Our work includes *The Bayonet* which you now hold in your hands. It includes our fantastic AMA Museum and our scholarship programs. From our 96 page issue last Summer, we are now down to 60 pages with further reductions to come in future issues. We have cut our AMA Legacy Scholarships from \$3,000 each to \$2,000 and are making every effort to eliminate any spending at the museum that is not absolutely necessary. And we will continue to look for ways be very frugal. That is one side of the coin.

The other side involves you. We are so grateful to those of you who have contributed and shown your confidence in our programs. It means so much to each of us when we see a donation come in at any amount but particularly when we know it was a hardship for the giver. Believe me, we are very appreciative.

On the following pages, you will see the list of contributors for all of 2008 and if you count them you will find there are less than 200 people contributing anything at all to the Foundation. That is about eight per cent of the people on our mailing list which means that 92 per cent of you who are reading *The Bayonet* have not given one penny to pay for its publication or mailing. Nothing to keep our museum open or to maintain our mailing list. Nothing to help fund our scholarships which help assure our nonprofit status.

Times are tough all around and each of us has unavoidable obligations in spite of the crunch. We have obligations also and many of them are unavoidable – our lease payment for the AMA Alumni House/Museum, utility costs, one full time employee, *et al.* In order to keep the signs up on I-81 and Route 11, we have to keep the museum open at least 36 hours a week which we are able to do because of our dedicated volunteers. We can cut *The Bayonet* more and reduce our scholarships more, but **should we have to do that when nine out of ten of our alumni can help prevent this from happening?**

When Jerry Arnold, '66, sent in his check, he said that if every alumnus would send in a hundred dollars, we would be in good shape. Jerry is correct.

If this letter seems harsh, I don't mean it to be but I do **need to convey to each of you the urgency we face.** If you have contributed recently, we thank you, thank you, thank you and if you can possibly spare more, we will be so grateful. Having said that, we hate to keep coming back to the same loyal people.

If you support what we are doing – the AMA Museum, the scholarships, *The Bayonet*, the reunions – look into your heart and make a contribution. Write a check or put it on VISA, American Express, Discover or MasterCard. *It is tax deductible!* We've told you that the patient is not well. Please do what you can to restore us to good health.

We are eager to hear any ideas you may have to help us through these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Frank

Frank Williamson, '60
Chairman,
Board of Trustees

Augusta Military Academy Alumni Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 101, Fort Defiance, Virginia 24437-0101
Phone (540) 248-3007
E-mail amaalumnihouse@aol.com

CONTRIBUTIONS

1 January-31 December 2008

We thank all these alumni and AMA friends for their financial support in 2008 and ask each reader to consider a 2009 gift to the AMA Alumni Foundation. Our needs are great, our resources not so great. So, please help – if you can.

GIVING LEVELS

Cadet Club	Up to \$50
White Leader	\$50 to \$99
Blue Leader	\$100 to \$249
Blue and White	
Champion	\$250 to \$499
Blue Streak Sponsor	
.	\$500 to \$999
Benefactor	\$1,000 to \$2,499
Patron	\$2,500 or more
Special Patron	
.	\$10,000 or more

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Greg Pearce, `65
Tommy Simmons, `53
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Cary Kelly
 in memory of Zeke Zehmer
BG Larry Nicholson, `75
Shawn Ogimachi, `77
Jerry Peirano, `67
Chuck Pine, `49
Bobby Rhea
 a portion in memory of Chief Chester Cole

Bill Robinson
Ambassador John Shirley, `49
Jim Stillwagon, `67
Donald Studer
Steve Traylor, `72
Charles Winston, `48

BLUE LEADERS

Paula Abel
Nate Adams, `41
Pauline Agnor
Ben Angle, `51
Anonymous
Frank Basalson, `71
John Bair, `54
Manuel Balbis, `53
Melvin Bazemore, `48
Ben Beard, `65
Mary Plyde Bell
Phil Bentley, `83
Dave Brewer, `46
Dr. Tom Callahan, `47
Harry Campbell, `70
Charles Carver
 in memory of Zeke Zehmer
John Congdon, `52
Col. Buckner Creel, `40
John Crowder, Fishburne
Stokes Daniels, `49
Tom DelValle, `73
Bill Deuber, `49
D. B. Everitt, `63
Warren Fleming, `72
Hampton Foley, `55
Tom Forrer, `67
Jay Fox, `54
Bob Gorgrant, `63
Bill Hammond, `73
Jim Handy, `56
Col. Dean Hanson, `63
Bob Harris, `54
Frank Hickisch, `48
Ken Hoke, `54
Jim Hunter, `72
Luis Iglesias, `75
Coyt Johnson, `56
Ray Kauffman, `45
Charles Kennedy, III
 in memory of Zeke Zehmer
Mike Kidd, `72
Col. Gary Kinnie, `49
Bill Knox, `42
Edward Kotz, `63
Al Krise, `57
Capt. Larry Kurtz, `38

Latelle LaFollette, '50
 Carlos Lacayo, '67
 Peter Lambert, '44
 Lew Lepper, '47
 Ben Lindsay, '51
 in memory of Sid Taylor
 Don Malnati, '72

Tim Mannasmith, AMA faculty

Jim McCausland, '39
 Jim McGavock, '46
 Chris Meek, '84
 Ernest Meier, '55
 Roger Messick, '52
 Brian Miller, '67
 George Mineff, '77

Anne (Mrs. Dick) Nolan, '50

Carl Oliver, '67
 Walter Palmer, '44
 Carroll Phillips, '46
 Jackson Prentice, '68
 Frank Pursel, '45

Harry Morrisette Ramsey

Edward Ray, '52
 Elliott Ridge, '59
 in memory of Zeke Zehmer

Mark Sauer, '66
 Joe Saunders, '60
 Mack Saunders, '50
 Carl Schmitz, '49

Tina Shafer

Ben Smith, '47

Mary Lee Sneed

Jim Snider, '49

Dr. George "Boots" Solan, '43

Larry Spillan, '61
 Col. Paul Sposito, '51
 Jim Starnes, '50
 Jim Sylvanus, '49
 Nicky Syropoulos, '69
 Meb Turner, '49
 Garry Understein, '71
 Willis Walker, '71
 Shad White, '52

Chuck Williams, Raymond-James

Susan Yates, Stuart Hall

in memory of Joseph William Thomson

Dan Yellott, '51

Tomas Yrastorza, '60

John Zehmer

in memory of Zeke Zehmer

John Zirkle, '59

WHITE LEADERS

Al Cleveland, '51
 Scott Cole, '84
 Mark Coolahan, '73
 George Crispen, '48
 Ray Faubion, '56
 Art Hurme, '61
 Lars Jensen

Kevin Kissling, '62
 Nellie Leatherman
 Mal and Linda Livick
 Ray Long, '46

Tommy Mitchell, '52
 Norman Palmer, Jr.

in memory of Zeke Zehmer

Ralph Parker, '52

George Reaves, '69

Cole Sandridge, '52

Ralph Sassaman, '70

Roberto Suero, '47

Al Tanara, '61

Tidewater Drillers AAU

in memory of Zeke Zehmer

Bill Tinder, '46

David Trimble, '60

VMI cadets

CADET CLUB MEMBERS

John Barrett, '50

Nancy Carter

in memory of happy nights and the two AMA

men in my life - Col. W. L. Gardner

and Nick Coleman Carter, '61

Rosemary Manch Doucette

Fred Dove, '60

Ozzie Ferro, '53

David Foley, '55

Marion Garcia, '49

Tom Hennessy, '70

Emanuel Michaels, '47

Tom Moon, '48

Lew Muddin, '54

Charles Pascale, '69

Bill Rulon, '50

John Sale

in memory of Zeke

Zehmer

Fred Thomas, '45

Virginia Turner

in memory of Zeke

Zehmer

Lynch Ward, '58



*If your name is on
 this list of faithful
 contributors, thank
 you most sincerely!
 Last year was a
 tough year for our
 Foundation as
 contributions were
 lagging - and they
 still are lagging in
 2009. So, if you can,
 please help us and
 help now. Thanks.*

When Jerry Arnold, '66, sent \$100 to the AMA Foundation, he wrote to say that if every alumnus and friend of AMA would just give the \$100, our budget woes would vanish.

Right you are, Jerry. As the Foundation Chairman **Frank Williamson, '60**, says, we can't continue doing what you told us you want us to do - the museum, the scholarships and *The Bayonet* - if less than nine per cent of the people on our mailing list give us financial support.

If you are in that nine per cent, we thank you sincerely. If you are in the 91 per cent who have not helped lately, will you look into your heart and support the institution which gave you a good start in life? Thank you for your consideration.

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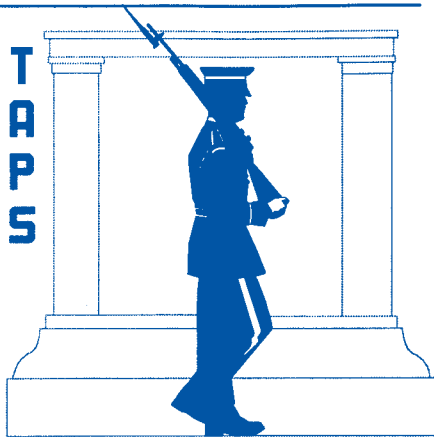
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Please report deaths and illnesses of AMA alumni, faculty and friends to
The AMA Chaplain
Frank Spencer, '49
506 Old Charleston Road
Waynesboro, VA 22980
540/943-2633
2frankspencer@myway.com

M. Birch Grawl, '31

Glen Mills, PA after an illness of five months. No other details. At AMA: intramural wrestling champion, wrestling team, rifle team, fencing, C Company.

Colonel Edward "Will" Parkins, '35

See story on page 22.

William K. Kerr, '40

8 February 2006, at home in Nampa, Idaho, pancreatic cancer, 82. Interred at the Idaho Veterans Cemetery. After AMA, he spent a summer in New Mexico with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). In World War II, he was assigned to 2nd Armored Division and saw service in North Africa, Corsica and Italy. Attended the University of Florence while stationed in Italy. Boise Lodge #2 A. F. & A. M., El Korah Shrine. Worked as an accountant in Pittsburgh and Idaho retiring from the Boise School District. Survived by his wife, Darlene Holloway Kerr of Nampa; sons, Ronald of Boise, John of Rupert, ID, and William of Honolulu; daughters Suzy Kerr and



Bill Kerr,
1940 Recall

Beverly Calkins, both of Boise; brother, Richard of Albuquerque, NM; sister Patricia Kerr of La Jolla, CA (who accompanied him to the AMA Reunion in 2002), eight grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. At AMA: Assigned to B Company.

Robert Anthony Lipp, '41

21 March 1993. No details available. At AMA: basketball all four years, Latin Medal, Sports Editor and Editor of The Bayonet., Honor Roll. 1st lieutenant, D Company, *Ad Astra per Aspera*.

Colonel Rutland Beard, '42

21 December 2008, after heart surgery. Survived by sons Rutland, III, David S. and Dr. Jonathan Beard and daughter Kathe Beard-Garren, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. See story on page 50.

John Beverly Daniel, '42

17 June 2005, in Craigsville, VA. The father of **Anderson Edward Daniel, '66**. No other details are available. At AMA: baseball, basketball, track, Headquarters Company.



John Daniel,
1942 Recall

Warren E. Beam, '42

28 May 2007. No details. Entered with his brother **George** from Staunton.

James Robert Lane, Jr., '49

We are repeating "Jim Bob's" listing as it was scrambled in the last issue)

12 June 2008, at home in Virginia Beach, after several years of declining health. One of *The Bayonet's* most faithful correspondents, he attended Randolph Macon College and the Norfolk Division of William and Mary. Served in all four branches of the service: with the Army in Korea (46-48), the Naval Reserve (48-53), the Marine Corps Reserve (53-56), the Virginia Air National Guard (57-59), and the Air Force in Berlin (59-62). After retiring from the Virginia Department of Transportation, he worked for Lone Star Industries



Jim Bob Lane,
1949 Recall

and Langley & McDonald as quality control supervisor. Singer, photographer, collector of books and coins, fisherman and woodworker. Survived by his wife, Sara Summer Lane; four sons, James Robert, III, of New Smyrna Beach, FL, Hampton of Wilmington, NC, Michael of Seattle and Stephen of Austin, TX; a sister, Margaret Baldwin of Norfolk; and four grandchildren. At AMA: 1st Sergeant, D Company, Roller Rifles, wrestling and swimming.

Reginald "Al" Stafford, '51

18 August 2008, Hampton, VA, 77. Graduated from Warwick High School. Two years in U.S. Army during the Korean War. Spent next 42 years at Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company. Retired as a steel fabricationspecialist. He was preceded in death by his wife, Donna, and a son, Jackie, who was a much decorated



Al Stafford,
1951 Recall

soldier who was killed in action in Vietnam. Survived by his daughter Ramona Walker of Hampton, two grandchildren, brothers Bob and Ronald, both of Newport News, and sister Teresa Johnston of Virginia Beach. At AMA: football, baseball, basketball, Headquarters Company.

Wayne Sanders, '52

No details available at the time we went to press. Sanders was living in Marietta, GA. At AMA: Tiger Football, Roller Rifles, Honor Roll, Master Sergeant in D Company.



Wayne Sanders
1952 Recall

Chief Petty Officer Chester Cole
 See story on page 24.

Henrietta (Mrs. Tom, '31) Alphin

Henrietta Byran Alphin, 21 October 2008 in the Stonewall Jackson Hospital, Lexington, 96. A graduate of Sweet Briar, she worked as a substitute teacher in Connecticut. She and "Doctor Tom" were faithful attendees at annual AMA reunions until his death in 1995.



Tom DelValle, '73

American Airlines will be extending courtesies to personnel on active duty

American Airlines Senior Vice President **Tom DelValle, '73**, has announced a list of courtesies which his airline is extending to servicemen and women who are traveling in uniform. *"We want to show our appreciation for the dedication and sacrifice these soldiers and their families make,"* says DelValle.

The courtesies American will extend to military personnel include waiving checking fees for up to three checked bags, reduced shipping costs for pets through AA Cargo when relocation is required due to military service, an invitation to spend time in the airline's Admirals Club while waiting for a flight and a one cabin upgrade when the seats and meals on board are available.

Military personnel in uniform also will be able to board American flights with First Class passengers and special fares will be extended to active duty personnel, to their spouses and to their dependent children.

Congratulations to Tom and to American which is living up to its name!

Bill Horan, '62, is President of Operation Blessing nonprofit

The 1962 *Recall* gives scant clues about where life would take **Bill Horan**. He played JV football and ran track, was in the Roller Rifles and on the Honor Committee and was noted as being *"one of the most loyal and fair minded cadets at AMA."* Today, Bill, who lives in Virginia Beach, is

the Chief Operating Officer and President of Operation Blessing (OBI), a multi-million-dollar-a-year humanitarian organization which has been chosen as one of the top 100 non-profits in the entire country.



Horan has traveled the world helping where help is needed. This includes areas of the U.S. where tornados have struck as well as launching an anti-parasite cam-

paign with the First Lady of Honduras, expanding the program to treat more than five million school age children every six months throughout Latin America.

In response to flood disasters in Ecuador, Bangladesh and Mexico, Horan helped direct a partnership with DHL Global Delivery Service to provide free shipping of water purification systems to provide flood victims with clean drinking water and OBI has a construction project to aid earthquake victims in China. Following Hurricane Ike, OBI crews battled mud and mold in Bridge City, TX and worked to provide clean water in Chorghee Village, India. They went to Haiti after triple hurricanes left thousands without food or water. In The Philippines, OBI has been instrumental in convincing former rebel soldiers to trade weapons for tools and they were in Morganton, NC in a hurry when the food banks there suddenly had empty shelves. OBI is providing thousands of vitamins and anti-parasite pills in Senegal, Africa and faced with the worst food inflation in the United States in the last 17 years, OBI is helping thousands of Americans who are tightening their belts.



**Bill Horan,
1962 Recall**

Bill has traveled extensively throughout Asia, Europe and Africa and has business relationships in 33 countries and all of the 50 states. He was raised in Guilford, Connecticut from where he came to AMA, and later lived in Northville, Michigan. He founded Michigan Aggregate Machinery, an international company that has been an industry leader. He is an avid fisherman and Past President of the Cayman Islands Angling Club. Bill and his wife, Laura, have two grown daughters. In 2007, Bill was named to the "Power and Influence Top 50" by the *Nonprofit Times* recognizing OBI as one of the top Hurricane Katrina relief agencies whose timely relief efforts earned them the slogan, *"Doing the Lord's work... this afternoon."*



PAVERS



Order form

Card number _____

Expiration date _____

Signature _____



Fill in the blanks below. PLEASE PRINT! Only one order per form please. Copy this form to order additional pavers. When you buy a paver, you SUPPORT AMA's ALUMNI FOUNDATION

Your name _____ Class, if any _____

Address _____ City, State, ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____ - _____ E-mail address _____

WHAT SIZE PAVER DO YOU WANT? _____ 8" X 8" - \$100 _____ 4" X 8" - \$50

Please PRINT what you want on your engraved brick, below

Maximum lettering: 4" X 8" - 3 lines of 12 characters each

8" X 8" - 5 lines of 12 characters each

- 1> _____
- 2> _____
- 3> _____
- 4> _____
- 5> _____

Punctuation marks and spaces count as characters!

Make check payable to:
AMA Alumni Foundation
Mail to: P.O. Box 100
Fort Defiance, VA 24437

Paver orders rolling in

Orders for laser engraved pavers to be placed in front of the AMA Alumni House/Museum are coming in but for these pavers to be installed by Reunion 2009, orders will have to be received by 6 March.

Pictured here are representations of some of the pavers ordered since the last issue of *The Bayonet* came out.

**IN HONOR OF
BOB
GORGRANT
SPORTS
HALL OF FAME
APRIL 2008**

**IN MEMORY OF
G. ROBERT
IRVIN - 1918
EDINBURG
GR IRVIN JR**

**GOD BLESS
AMA & STAFF
KEN NICHOLS
CLASS OF
1955**

**IN HONOR OF
DAVID, '53
AND
L. KEVIN, '54
FOLEY**

**IN HONOR OF
RICHARD L.
"DICK" SMOOT
CLASS OF '53**

**RECORDANDO
A TODOS LOS
CADETES
LATINOS
DE A.M.A.**

**EARL GRAVES
"DUKE"
CLASS OF '25**

**USNA FRIEND
DR. MARY
DECREDICO**

**ALLIE
I LOVE YOU
BAMMA**

**SYDNEY
I LOVE YOU
BAMMA**

Use the order form on the facing page to place your order now. Orders received by 6 March will enable the paver or pavers you order to be installed in time for the reunion. Let us hear from you! These are laser engraved bricks which will be a permanent record there in front of our AMA Alumni House/Museum!

Scott Momaday, '52, and the Buffalo Trust

Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Scott Momaday, '52**, a Kiowa Indian from Oklahoma, operates what is known as the Buffalo Trust, a nonprofit organization working to preserve native cultures. The Smithsonian magazine for January quoted him on the goals of the Trust.



Scott Momaday,
Smithsonian magazine

The aspects of Native American Culture that inspire his work include *"its respect for the natural world... and a keen sense of aesthetics. My father was a painter and he once said to me, 'I never knew an Indian child who could not draw.'"* Momaday says that today there are more Indians living in urban communities than on reservations and *"It is that detachment from the land that weakens their hold on the traditional world."*

Scott says that the Buffalo Trust is building a campground in southwestern Oklahoma where young Indian people can come and be exposed to the traditional teaching of elders. *"I'm hoping to see more 'hands on' training in traditional arts and crafts – for instance, young people learning to tan a buffalo hide, construct a tepee and prepare traditional medicines and foods."*

Momaday points out that Indians are marvelous story tellers and that in some ways, the oral tradition is stronger than the written tradition. *"Like Shakespeare,"* says Momaday, *"the Indian has a lot to teach the rest of us about language in its essence."*

Harry Campbell, '70, now has AMAAlumniNews going strong

Several years ago, **Steve Pearson, '72**, had AMAMail in operation, a site where alumni could contact each other, tell stories from their AMA past and locate fellows who had been lost for a long time. Unfortunately, Steve's illness shut down the site.

Now, **Harry Campbell, '70**, has reinvigorated the idea with the creation of AMAAlumniNews@aol.com. Harry's plan is to receive e-mails from AMA alumni and friends all through the week, then do a mass mailing to everyone on the AMA e-mail list each Sunday. *"Very much like the Sunday night exercise we had at AMA when we were supposed to send a letter home,"* he says.

Already, the site has produced lots of Christmas and pre-Christmas memories. *"It's the perfect place to get out timely information such as the death of an AMA leader or an event that comes up suddenly,"* Harry says. So, now, while you are thinking about it, send an AMA message to: AMAAlumniNews@aol.com and look for your Sunday letter!

Key Largo condo in the Silent Auction



Jorge Rovirosa, '70, has put his Key Largo condo in the Silent Auction at Reunion 2009. This fantastic property in the Florida keys will be available for a full week to the high bidder. These photos, above and below, give you some flavor for this beautiful get away home. See full color photos of the condo at Reunion 2009. Thanks, Jorge!



AUGUSTA COUNTY OFFICIALS - Goodloe Saunders, '57, one of the AMA Museum docents, gives a tour to representatives of the Augusta County Department of Parks and Recreation.

AmericanAirlines® Thanks to **Tom DelValle, '73**, American Airlines will offer two sets of tickets for the Silent Auction: two roundtrip tourist class – and two roundtrip First Class tickets. Be sure you are the top bidder!



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SPOTLIGHT on BUD OAKEY, '70

A lobbyist and proud of it!

"Spending five years in military school helped me learn to negotiate my way out of mess after mess," which is a fairly good definition of what a lobbyist does from time to time, though staying out of messes in the first place is likely a better measure of a lobbyist's worth. Lobbying is but a



New AMA Alumni Association board member Bud Oakey, '70, makes a point at a board meeting.

logical extension of the right to petition the government for a redress of grievances and **Daniel "Bud" Oakey, '70**, clearly does not think that the word "lobbyist" is a dirty word – especially since he is one!

Bud's family is in the funeral home business in Roanoke (there were several Southwest Virginia towns with Oakey Funeral homes through the 1940's). Now the principal of Advantus Strategies, L.L.C., he helps his clients in Richmond and Washington when they have an interface with government. His company's motto: *Our clients do business with government. We make it easier.*

As Vice President of the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce, he often traveled to Richmond helping to assure that Southwest Virginia was not forgotten when state funds were distributed. He helped found the Virginia West Legislative Coalition which brought together other Southwest Virginia chambers of commerce into a cohesive and stronger entity. Bud notes that this region of Virginia *"has enough votes in the State Senate and the General Assembly to stop most anything and enough clout that others in the legislature will support their proposals."*

And it all goes back to AMA and to Riverside Military Academy. It was pretty much preordained that Bud would go to a military school. *"My grandfather was a two star general in the Army, so the military always was a part of my life,"* Oakey says. *"My uncle was a West Pointer and his son, Lawrence Greene was AMA, Class of 1965, who was killed in Vietnam in 1968. My father was a VMI grad and another uncle attended SMA and West Point."*

Bud's father passed away

In August of 1968, Bud's Dad died after a heart attack and *"Dad's best friend convinced my Mom that AMA was the place for me."* So that September, Bud arrived in Fort Defiance to begin a two year stint as an Augusta Military Academy cadet. *"In 1970, my Mother moved to Atlanta to be closer to her parents after my Dad's death so I transferred to Riverside where I spent the next three years."*

It was at AMA and Riverside that Bud learned to be part of a team – the importance of working as a unit. He learned to trust others and to not make excuses for shortcomings or mistakes *"and I learned not to let failures block the way to success."*

Which has helped him deal with things like the barriers to interdepartmental communication in government which Oakey says is *"nothing like anything I have ever seen in the private sector and is one of the major obstacles Advantus helps our clients to deal with."* He lives and works in Richmond and gets back to Roanoke on weekends plus he spends five to six days each month in Washington.

This is Bud's twentieth year as a lobbyist. It started out as LeClair, Ryan, Oakey and became Advantus, L.L.C. five years ago after Bud left the law firm. The work he did with the Roanoke Chamber gave him a good understanding of how things work in Richmond and as a logical extension in Washington, D.C. His original business plan foresaw working with start up companies based at Virginia Tech who wanted to do business with state government but then he found that these folks didn't have the funds to hire someone to represent them in Richmond, so he moved on to represent companies like Dell and Computer Associates. Through a network of like organizations, Advantus has business connections in all 50 states. In addition to lobbying, Bud

manages trade associations with business to government services filling the balance of his busy schedule.

Says AMA Alumni President **Garry Granger, '71**, "We are so fortunate to have this talented fellow going to the line for AMA particularly when you consider the killer schedule he has. A new board member, Bud already has helped us in many ways including the securing of the first State of Virginia Grant that the AMA Alumni Foundation has ever received." One of the reasons that Granger was able to entice Bud onto the AMA Board is explained by something Oakey says: "I made some of the best friends of my life at AMA, friends who I can count on to this day and whose company I still enjoy deeply."

Recently, Bud came across his AMA cadet record: "It had letters to and from **Colonel Livick** after I transferred to Riverside, letters I had forgotten about, letters from a young man growing up. Colonel Livick gave us a foundation to grow from. **Doc Savedge** challenged you to always want more. **Colonel Hoover** made you realize that you had more in you than you thought. What they taught me I have tried to pass along to my children."

And lobbying? Bud bristles when someone makes a sarcastic comment about being a lobbyist: "I'm getting tired of hearing lobbyists being vilified. Why shouldn't these good companies have representatives working for them?"

One thing is certain – **we** are very fortunate to have Bud Oakey working for us!

Thanks to the Valley Business FRONT for many of the details about Bud's acumen as a lobbyist.

Class of 1969 to celebrate 40 years

Nicky Syropoulos, '69, is trying to get his classmates back for their 40th anniversary reunion in April. He says that sometimes he can't remember if it was 40 years ago that he and his classmates graduated or was it yesterday? "The time is here to come back to The Valley and feel your youth," he says. Nicky says his class had a great turnout for their 30th and quite a few came back to AMA for the first time "many of them saying they would be back for our 40th. Well, here we are, guys. See you in April."

Coach Ralph had a tough year

Former AMA coach and teacher **Reverend Bill Ralph** had a bad health year in 2008.

At the time of the 2008 reunion, he was hospitalized with acute congestive heart failure. By June, he had regained some of his strength and attended an out of town family reunion but immediately upon his return home, he was hospitalized again. Bill's wife, **Rosalie**, also a former AMA teacher, says that he is "much better now and able to lead his Bible study sessions and even fills a pulpit from time to time." The Ralphs hope to be at Reunion 2009.

AMA e-mail addresses available on line

Normally, we print all the known AMA alumni e-mail addresses in the Winter issue but we are cutting where we can. Go to www.AMAAlumni.org to get the addresses.



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Paris and the Normandy Coast

A trip designed for AMA folks by Frank Williamson, '60

A 10 (or 12*) day tour of France and the Normandy Coast beginning 2 October and returning 12 October 2009. Trip includes air transportation with a major airline, airport transfers, a bilingual Go Ahead Tour Director plus Frank and Bev Williamson, city guides in Paris, Rouen and St. Malo, 10 nights in comfortable, well-located hotels with private baths, all hotel service charges and tips, baggage handling, a buffet breakfast daily, five three-course dinners, a private deluxe motor-coach, guided sightseeing and entrance fees to all attractions.

ALL FOR \$3,029 for double occupancy
plus

■ \$249 Travel Insurance

■ \$620 for **all** the options on days 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11**

This trip has been specially designed for AMA alumni and friends with several optional excursions.



Frank and Bev Williamson will be along to see that everything happens as planned. This is a unique opportunity to see the best of France with a world renowned tour company – goaheadtours.

For more information, you can e-mail Frank Williamson at: franksfuntours@aol.com. Or you can call him at 804/360-1701. We need at least 15 travelers to sign on for the Special AMA Tour! So talk to your friends!

** Individual options are priced as follows:

Full day Honfleur and Norman heritage - \$59.

Full D-Day extension - \$199.

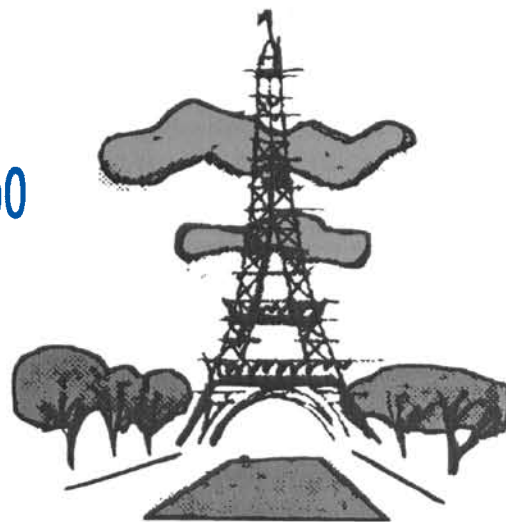
Half day to Mont-St. Michel - \$69.

Full day to Loire Chateaux - \$105.

Evening in Paris and Seine cruise - \$99.

Half day to Versailles - \$89.

Take any
number or all
of the options



DAY 1: Flight to Paris aboard an internationally recognized airline

DAY 2: Welcome to Paris! Transfer to luxury motorcoach for trip to Rouen. Welcome dinner in Rouen. **Meals:** In flight breakfast, dinner

DAY 3: Professional guide gives tour of this Medieval city. See the Church of Joan of Arc that stands in the square where she was burned at the stake. A free afternoon or optional tour of Honfleur with stops at a Calvados distillery and a cheese factory. **Meals:** Breakfast, dinner

DAY 4: Tour the Normandy Coast. Visit Lisieux where St. Theresa spent her childhood. Tour the Caen D-Day Museum and an orientation of the town which was William the Conqueror's French headquarters and a German strong point which held off the D-Day invaders for an entire month. **Meals:** Breakfast, dinner

DAY 5: Free day on the Normandy Coast. Optional excursion to the Normandy beaches of World War II. A visit to the American Military Cemetery at Normandy where an AMA hero is saluted in a moving motion picture. **Meal:** Breakfast.

DAY 6: Travel to St. Malo visiting Villedieu-les-Pozzles, one of France's most picturesque Medieval towns. See the famous Bayeux Tapestry depicting the Battle of Hastings in 1066. **Meals:** Breakfast, dinner

DAY 7: Sightseeing in St. Malo, a rocky Atlantic outpost from which pirates once set sail. Go through the narrow streets, tall granite homes and Medieval ramparts. This afternoon, opt for an excursion to the spectacular Mont-St-Michel Monastery situated on a tiny islet surrounded by crashing waves. **Meal:** Breakfast

DAY 8: Depart St. Malo for the lush Loire Valley, a major wine producing region and once France's "Playground of the Kings." First stop is Blois Chateau, an impressive estate encompassing architectural styles back to the 13th century. Arrive in Tours and walk through the Old Quarter. Sightseeing tour of the city. **Meals:** Breakfast, dinner

DAY 9: Free day in Tours or an optional excursion to two of the Loire Valley's Renaissance castles. See the landscaped gardens of Villandry and enjoy a wine tasting at a Loire Valley wine cellar. **Meal:** Breakfast

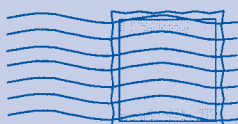
DAY 10: Travel to Paris with a stop at the Medieval town of Chartres to see its famous Gothic Cathedral. An optional Evening in Paris with a sumptuous dinner followed by a cruise along the Seine. **Meals:** Breakfast and dinner

DAY 11: Paris sightseeing. Drive down the Champs-Elysees, see the Eiffel Tower and the Place de la Concorde with the guillotine once stood. See the Arch de Triomphe and the Louvre and absorb the haute culture of the Opera District. Join an optional excursion to the Palace of Versailles where Louis XIV created the most lavish court Europe has ever known. Farewell dinner tonight. **Meals:** Breakfast and dinner

DAY 12: Board your flight for home or continue on a tour extension.* **Meal:** Breakfast,

* Extension for two nights in Paris. **DAY 12:** Explore the Left Bank, the Louvre, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Jewish Quarter and the Latin Quarter. **DAY 13:** Free day in Paris or an optional cruise to Giverny, Claude Monet's home and gardens.

Letters to the Editor



More on Matt Ransom, III, '42

Thank you for the beautiful story about Matt in the Fall issue. I met Matt in the late 1930's in Lynchburg and we both attended the Virginia Episcopal School (VES) before we transferred to AMA. I never knew until a few years ago that Matt did not return from World War II.

My daughter took my two grandchildren to the American Military Cemetery in Cambridge, England this past Fall and placed an AMA cap emblem in the pouch on Matt's cross. (Picture on page 17) My daughter said that Matt is in a quiet and beautiful place where he will always be remembered.

John Younger, '43
East Point, GA

[loujohny@aol.com]

Great aunt married General Ransom's son

The story about Matt W. Ransom, III in the last *Bayonet* fascinated me since my Grandmother's sister married the son of the original Matt W. Ransom, a general in the Confederate Army and a United States Senator from North Carolina. I called my cousin who is the brother of **Bill Johnson, '55**, and I hope that he will know how to contact Matt, III's son.

My Bill and I attended the 1993 reunion just a year before his death. We were so happy to see **John Larus, Bill Rand, Bill Harris** and his other classmates. I am sure that Billy is looking down on us all.

Stagg (Mrs. Bill, '48) Sanders
Raleigh, NC

[staggns@nc.rr.com]

Bill Johnson, '55 writes about Matt...

Matt Ransom was my mother's first cousin and I had no idea that he had gone to AMA before the war. His son, Matt IV, farms next to me but spends most of his time in South Carolina. I am getting in touch with him.

Bill Johnson, '55
Jackson, NC

[billj@3rddoor.com]

...and so does Angus Hines, '42

I phoned Matt, IV, in Little River, SC and talked with his wife, Alice. She said that her husband would be very happy indeed to talk with anyone about his Dad who he never knew (at the time of Matt, III's death in October of 1944, his wife was expecting a child).

Please send copies of the last *Bayonet* to Matt, IV - one for Matt, V and one for our Matt's wife who was remarried after World War II. Thanks for your dedication to tracking him down.

Angus Hines, '42
Norfolk, VA

[angushines@aol.com]

Remembering John Morris, '49

The article on **Dr. John Morris, '49**, in the Fall issue

of *The Bayonet* reminded me of ships passing in the night. Because John wanted to be an English teacher, he passed up AMA's appointment to West Point and I was able to attend. After I graduated from the Academy, I had tours in Germany, Arizona and Korea before I was sent back to West Point to teach engineering. At the same time, I was taking night courses toward a PhD at Columbia while John was teaching there, but I never knew until now. It would have been good to spend some time with him.

Colonel Gray Kinnie, '49
[graylouise@mindspring.com] Hilton Head Island, SC



Old Fort Defiance Post Office

I am a cousin of the late **Chuck Hillsman, '71**, and the daughter of **Alan McKay Lindsey, Class of 1918**. The picture on the last page of the Fall 2008 *Bayonet* (and above) is a photo I gave to the AMA Museum some time ago and I assume it was taken while my Dad was a cadet at Augusta. I don't know where this old post office was located but I am sure it is from my father's time at AMA.

Margaret Lam
Stafford, VA

[m6054129@hotmail.com]

Hope you make your target

I am sending along a contribution and I hope that you make your target. *The Bayonet* is a great paper and I look forward to receiving it each time.

Chuck Pine, '49
Winchester, VA

Ed Cabo's family writes

My children and I thank AMA and particularly **Brett Thompson** and **Stride Coleman** for helping us to scatter Ed's ashes in the courtyard of the school he loved so much. On the flight home, the children were asking if we might go to the 2009 reunion.

Walking into the museum really touched our hearts and seeing Dad's ashes fly through the school was breath taking. The stories Stride and Brett told us about Ed were

priceless. AMA had a place in his heart and the little ceremony at AMA gave us the missing piece and the closure we needed to say goodbye. He is where he was supposed to be and there is nothing better than that.

Kelli (Ed's wife) and Danielle (Ed's daughter) Cabo
[kelli@stonebridgegcc.com] Selden, NY

AMA a constant source of strength

Like all former AMA cadets, I carry Augusta through everything I do. My AMA experiences are a constant source of strength. The best preparation for any challenge is your prior challenges and we former cadets were blessed with many challenges. I always try to get back to our reunions but my teaching responsibilities at Cabrillo College always seem to conflict with our reunion dates. I miss seeing my Band Company brothers.

Shawn Ogimachi, '77
[shogimac@cabrillo.edu] Santa Cruz, CA

Thanks for keeping us together

You have once more outdone yourself in putting together *The Bayonet*. Thanks so much for all the time and effort you put into keeping us together.

Guy Townsend, '54
[wguyemillie@wildblue.net] Manquin, VA

Dad taught at AMA

I enjoyed visiting the AMA web site.

My dad, **Richard W. Schwartz**, was a teacher of military science at AMA from 1963 until 1967 and was the rifle team coach for some of that time.

I have many very fond memories of AMA and of living in Staunton.

Karen Schwartz Pickens



Sergeant Schwartz

Loved the museum

My wife and I had an extraordinarily nice visit to the AMA Museum. Although I did not attend AMA, I am a retired Army officer who grew up in Harrisonburg and used to attend AMA Sunday parades with my family.

I am enclosing a check to purchase that beautiful AMA coin as a fine souvenir of our visit.

Page E. Berry
Naples, FL

Camp Kannata closed in 1963

I talked with my aunt and she confirms that **Colonel Deane's** boys' camp at Camp Kannata last operated in the summer of 1963. My brother was born that year and my grandfather was in the hospital so these milestones have stuck in my mind and earmark the memory.

[scbvmd@comcast.net] Ginger Deane Bushman

A correction about Sergeant Mines

My Dad was survived by two daughters, Robin Mines Hevener and me, Kitty Mines Saunders. The names were mixed up in the write up in the last *Bayonet*.

Kitty Mines Saunders

We apologize for the error - ED

Remembering Ernie Mines

I remember well when SFC Mines was giving us a lesson in radio wire training on the AMA back field. He put the pole climber gear on – spiked leggings and all. Then he said, "*Gentlemen, you've got to remember to lean back if you slip so you will dig your cleats into the pole. Just as it is easy to climb up, it is easy to repel down the pole.*"

Well, Sergeant Mines climbed up and sure enough, he lost it and slid down the pole, hugging it all the way down. He had splinters in his arms and legs – those old telephone poles were part of the baseball backstop and were really full of splinters.

He continued on with the lesson, pointing out why you must lean back. He never let on that he was hurt. At the time, we laughed and giggled at "ole Ernest G," but later it dawned on us all that he was showing us no pain.

Lesson learned – more respect garnered.

Nicky Syropoulos, '69
[Nickolas.Syropoulos@xerox.com] Baltimore, MD

Won nation's second highest medal

Ernie "Pete" Mines' obituary reported that he had been awarded the Bronze Star for bravery.

He also received the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest award for valor. While his troops were removing "Hands Across the Sea" rice sent from the U.S., a grenade fell to the floor. Pete dove onto the grenade to shield his troops and stayed there for what must have seemed like forever but a piece of rust kept the grenade striker from falling.

Later, the grenade was detonated and it surely would have killed Pete. If it had gone off, he probably would have gotten the Medal of Honor posthumously. I learned all this from Pete after lots of badgering.

Sergeant Don Studer
[donaldstuder@aol.com] Waynesboro, VA

Read the order awarding the DSC to Sergeant Mines on page 18

Thanks for the AMA Scholarship

I am very sorry that I could not attend your reunion last year. My Dad really enjoyed being there in my place.

I ended the fall semester with a 3.5 at Shenandoah University and will have 87 credits by the end of my sophomore year. I am part of the University Children's Theater and the Shenandoah Showmakers who perform at area schools and was cast in the production of *The Full Monty* at the Old Opera House in Charleston. I live just 20 minutes from home but I live on campus with my roommate who has become a best friend.

[aleach@su.edu] Andre Leach
Son of Ed Leach, '69

Valiant effort **Roller Rifles tried for the Obama Inaugural Parade**

Hopes were high though the possibilities seemed slim at best. Just over a hundred units would be chosen to march in President Obama's inaugural parade and some dreamed of having our Roller Rifles be one of the select few. Alas, it was not to be. Museum Executive Director **Tina Shafer** received the call a couple of weeks before Christmas and passed along the bad news to those who were imagining that long march in Washington, DC on the 20th of January.

Says organizer **Steve Traylor**, '72, "Perhaps none of our expectations were very high though you had to admit that you were pumped up by the thought of marching in that historical parade. We may live with a bit of 'What if we had been selected?', but the point is that we tried."

Steve says that just from the article which appeared in the last *Bayonet*, he had 37 positive responses toward the 46 marchers needed to satisfy the Inaugural Committee's requirements.

AMA Alumni Association President **Garry Granger**, '71, said, "I was so very proud of Steve and all of those who rallied to his call. It was not to be but the effort shows what 'Ad Astra per Aspera' really means."

In turn, Traylor thanked Granger "for approving the exploratory idea and **Bud Oakey**, '70, who helped secure the parade participant application through Virginia Congressman Goodlatte's office."

He also thanked **Luke Snyder**, '60, for preparing a video of the Roller Rifles from the 2008 reunion and Tina, **Don Studer** and **Joe Josephson** for completing the other application requirements.

The two units chosen to represent Virginia in the parade were the Regimental Bands from Virginia Tech and VMI.



**Steve Traylor,
1972 Recall**

World War One ended 90 years ago 11/11/18

The armistice which ended World War One went into effect at 11 AM on 11 November 1918 – the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. The European war began in 1914 and though the United States did not enter the war until 1917, nearly 53,000 Americans were killed in action including eight Augusta alumni.

As we remember those who served our country so faithfully and heroically in World War Two, the Korean War, Vietnam and the Gulf/Iraq Wars, it is well to remember solemnly those brave fellows who went off to battle in France in 1917 in what was supposed to be the war that would end all wars.



The "Big Boy" – **General Charles S. Roller, Jr.** served as a major in the 89th Division, American Red Cross, during his time in the service (1918-19). He and his brother, **Colonel Tom Roller**, reportedly drew straws to see who would go off to war and who would stay behind to run AMA. Whether the Big Boy got the short straw or the long one, he went to France to serve during the last year of the Great War, a conflict where Red Cross personnel were at the front much as medics were in World War Two and the other 20th Century conflicts.

The plaque, above, hangs in the AMA Alumni House/Museum and formerly hung in the Front Arch. It remembers the sacrifices of eight AMA Alumni: **Thomas D. Amory, Elliott M. Braxton, J. Frank Clemmer, Richard J. Howard, Jack Kirkpatrick, Lloyd B. Liebler, Herbert L. Richey and William F. Welch.**

Planning for 2009 AMA Cruise

Would you like to go on a cruise with some of your AMA friends this year? If so, we need to hear from you!

Ozzie "Coyote" Ferro, '53, has arranged the last three AMA Cruises and will plan one for 2009. What he needs is to hear from alumni and AMA friends: What ports would you like to visit? What time of year would you like to go? Do you have a preference for a ship or a cruise company?

"If we have at least five people to sign up, I can get a deal that will accommodate the party," says Ozzie.

E-mail him at: ferroozzie@bellsouth.net. No obligation whatever but your indication of interest will tell Ozzie what to be looking for and he'll be in touch with you.

Once a tour is set up, it will be announced on the AMA web site: AMAAlumni.org. And on **Harry Campbell's** new AMAAlumniNews.com. And of course in the next *Bayonet*.

Former First Captain Mark Femrite is latest to join the Roller Society

The latest AMA alumnus to join the Roller Society is **Mark Femrite**, '71. Mark says that he was redoing his estate planning and life insurance and decided "to assure that something goes to AMA when I am gone."

The Roller Society is made up of alumni and friends of AMA who have pledged to leave something to the AMA Alumni Foundation when they are no longer here. Society Chairman **Gordon Metz**, '68, welcomed Mark into the Society saying, "It is on the shoulders of Roller Society members that AMA's future is assured. We really do appreciate this commitment from a former First Captain."

After a career in life insurance, Mark is now an independent contractor. He lives in Riner near Blacksburg.

AMA is honored at VMI parade

Thanks to the intercession of **Frank Spencer, '49**, a 1953 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute, the AMA Alumni Association and Foundation had its Fall meetings on the Lexington campus which included a Dress Parade in honor of Augusta. As every AMA cadet knows, **General Charles S. Roller, Jr.** was a 1901 graduate of VMI, a star on its great football team that year and the roommate of **George Catlett Marshall**, World War Two's top general officer.



Above, Frank Spencer stands outside VMI Room

202 where Generals Roller and Marshall lived their senior year – 1900-01. Top, right, the Virginia Military Institute Regimental Band played the AMA school song as it passed in review at the parade honoring Augusta. Above, center, right, AMA alumni and guests stand as the Flag passed by. In the bottom photo, a VMI Keydet leads a tour of the historic places on the VMI campus.



NOT QUITE ENOUGH - Santo Santalo, '52, went all out for a McCain rally in Miami.

Son of Dick Nolan, '50

Mike Nolan out as 49er coach

After three and a half years as head coach of the San Francisco 49ers – a position his late father **Dick Nolan**, '50, held from 1968 to 1975 – Mike Nolan was let go in mid-season after going two for seven in 2008 and 18-37 in his time as head coach.

Mike Nolan has signed on as the defensive coordinator for the Denver Broncos.

Dick Nolan was inducted into the AMA Sports Hall of Fame last year. Dick's wife, Anne, and three of her children were in Fort Defiance for the ceremony. Mike was in his office in San Francisco making his first choice in the NFL draft.

OOPS

We neglected to acknowledge the generous \$500 contributions from **Hal Walters**, '48, and **J. M. Carstarphen**, '52, in the last issue.

Thanks, Hal and Bip, and please pardon your befuddled editor for the unintended omission.



WHAT IT WAS WAS FOOTBALL - It took a football game to get these AMA fellows together – the Ravens versus the Redskins and a football party at Scott Rosenstein's house. Kneeling, Blaine Clarke, '72, and Bruce Strange, '72. Standing, Bill Scarborough, '69, Bruce Orenstein, '69, Ray Marcantoni, '70, Ralph Sassaman, '70, Nicky Syropoulos, '69, Steve Traylor, '72 and Rosenstein, '71.

Terry Barkley writes

Terry Barkley writes to us from Marion Military Academy in Alabama to correct a story in the Fall 2008 issue: "I did not teach PE or Driver's Ed at AMA nor did I manage the AMA Band. I taught history and social studies with the faculty rank of captain and also taught 7th grade English and science for one year. In addition, I was the School House-father part of my first year at AMA, was the acting librarian my last year there and worked with the drummers in the Band. I really appreciate the article in the last issue. AMA does a wonderful job with your magazine."

Take a look at Terry's blog at <http://baerusers.pbwiki.com>. Click on Archives.

[tbarkley@marionmilitary.edu]

**Register for Reunion 2009
before 10 April AND SAVE!**
Details on the blue registration form

Pearce comes through again

After reading in the last *Bayonet* that the ten year old track lighting in the AMA Museum had seen better days, AMA Super Friend **Greg Pearce**, '65, came through with the funds to replace the lighting.

This is but the latest in a series of AMA good deeds performed by Greg who received an AMA Alumni Medal at the 2008 reunion. Thank you again, Greg, for your unfailing attention to the needs of our museum.

The AMA Alumni Association
does NOT make hotel
reservations for
the reunion.

Check the list of hotels
on page 14 and call today!

One of first killed in Vietnam

Neil MacIver, '61, died in VC ambush

An historian researching the death of a Minnesota man in the early days of the Vietnam War not only uncovered how that man had died but how **Neil MacIver, '61**, had been struck down. A. B. Russ of Blue Earth, MN, searching for information about U.S. Army Captain James Brodt, found that he and MacIver, both Green Berets, were killed in a Viet Cong ambush on 29 May 1963.

Earlier, an outpost just two miles from Captain Brodt's main base, was overrun and destroyed by the VC. About the same time, PFC MacIver, the team's radioman, stepped on a booby trap which put bamboo spikes through his foot earning him a second Purple Heart. He should have been airlifted out for medical attention but Neil pled successfully to stay with his unit.

Captain Brodt, a West Pointer, and MacIver were on a patrol with Vietnamese Rangers when they were ambushed. While the facts are not completely clear, it is believed that MacIver who was on point was hit first and Brodt was hit when he went to MacIver's aid.

MacIver had six bullet holes in his chest and likely was dead before he hit the ground. Brodt had been shot through the head and the feeling was that he had been hit, then executed by the VC though he could have been killed by friendly fire.

MacIver and Brodt became the 47th and 48th Americans to lose their lives in Vietnam at the beginning of a war that eventually would see more than 58,000 Americans die.

Thanks to A. B. Russ for providing us with this information.



**Neil MacIver,
1961 Recall**



CORRECTING AN ERROR - In the last issue, we ran this photo of Lowell Thomas' visit to AMA in 1934. The famed radio newsman is shown with Colonel and Mrs. Tom Roller who were correctly identified in the last issue, but the woman to the left is Maggie Bell Roller Robinson and the uniformed man likely is Major Yates. Thanks to Linda and Mal Livick for making these IDs.

Museum awarded 2009 conservation grant

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has awarded a 2009 Conservation Assessment Grant to the AMA Museum which will provide a comprehensive review of our collection with suggestions on how to protect the artifacts. The grant is valued at \$7,190 which represents the cost of doing the review.

AMA Alumni Foundation Chairman **Frank Williamson, '60**, said, *"This is a major step forward for us. When the assessor completes the report, we will have exactly what we need to seek grants from national organizations. This is a real tribute to everyone who saw the possibilities and have made our little museum what it has become."*

The AMA Museum Executive Director **Tina Shafer** recently attended a four day conference of the American Association for State and Local History in Rochester, NY. After that conference, AMA applied for the grant from IMLS.

With a certified assessment, which is administered by the Heritage Preservation organization, the museum can move boldly to secure grants from state, federal and private organizations.

The assessors will be Nancy Davis who has been a conservator in Maryland for 20 years and Richard Byrne of Staunton who has been an architectural conservationist for more than 40 years.

Davis is an expert in photographs, metal work and textiles. She is the National Preservation Program Officer for Presidential libraries and oversees the preventative conservation programs for eleven Presidential Libraries and Museums.

Byrne has studied and worked all over the world. He is the Past Director of Virginia Historic Resources and has worked with Scotchtown, the home of Patrick Henry, the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton and the Grandma Moses House in Verona.

In 2008, only 106 museums were accepted into the program out of 206 which had applied. Nearly 2,500 museums have participated in the Conservation Assessment Program since 1990.

There are some 12,000 small museums and historical societies that care for nearly 200 million artifacts of our nation's historic, educational, artistic and scientific heritage.

Nearly 50 per cent of small museums – including the AMA Museum – rely on volunteers in part, if not totally, for conservation and preservation activities.

"We are very fortunate to have these experienced experts helping us preserve AMA's heritage," says Shafer.



**Executive Director Tina
Shafer reports to the
foundation at its VMI
meeting.**

Hand turned AMA cadets

These lovingly produced wooden cadets have been made by a couple in Waynesboro and they have retired. When our present supply is exhausted, there will be no more.

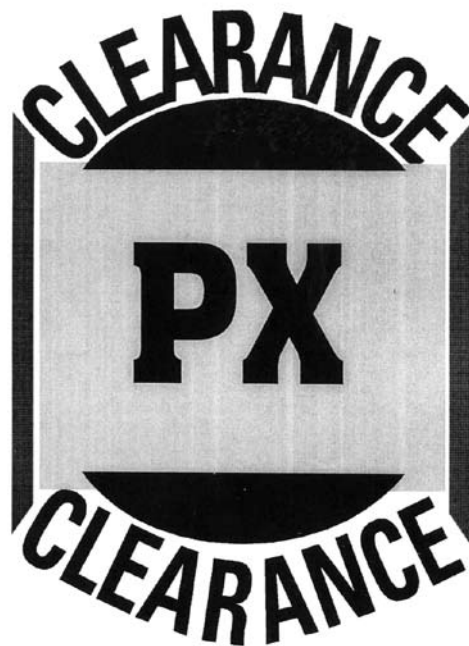
THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO OWN ONE!



2 1/2 inches tall. Hang on a tree or sit on its base. Beautiful to behold. Outstanding craftsmanship.



The minicadets are priced at \$15 each or five for \$69



While they last, your choice of cadet with saber, rifle at order arms, rifle at right shoulder, with drum or with flag.

CAPture some CAPS at great prices!

Cotton or cotton/poly
ONE SIZE FITS ALL!
AMA Museum - \$10



AMA Ad Astra - \$10
All cotton white
w/AMA logo - \$10
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Roller Rifles cap -
\$20

License tag holder
AMA blue on white
\$5



COACH'S JACKET

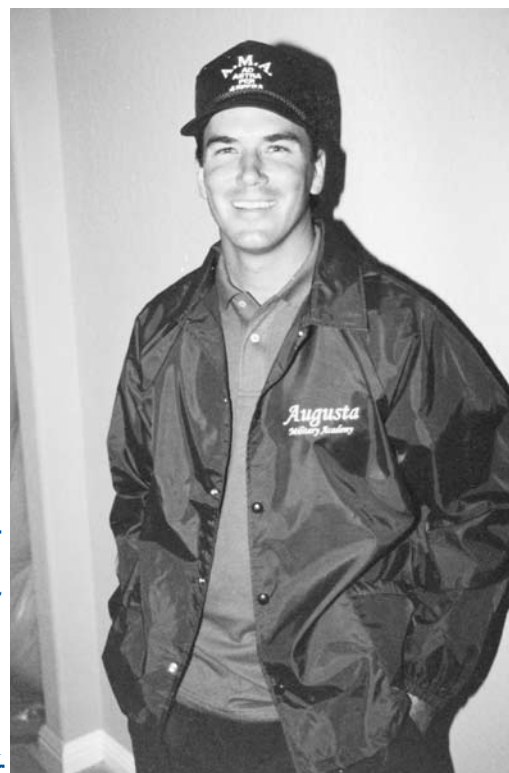
Nylon, blue with
white lettering

Sizes: M, L, XL,
XXL and XXXL

Unlined:	Lined:
\$20	\$25

Order from the AMA PX.
Box 100, Fort Defiance 24437
Phone orders: 540/248-3007

AMAAAlumniHouse@aol.com
VISA, MasterCard, Discovery
and American Express accepted



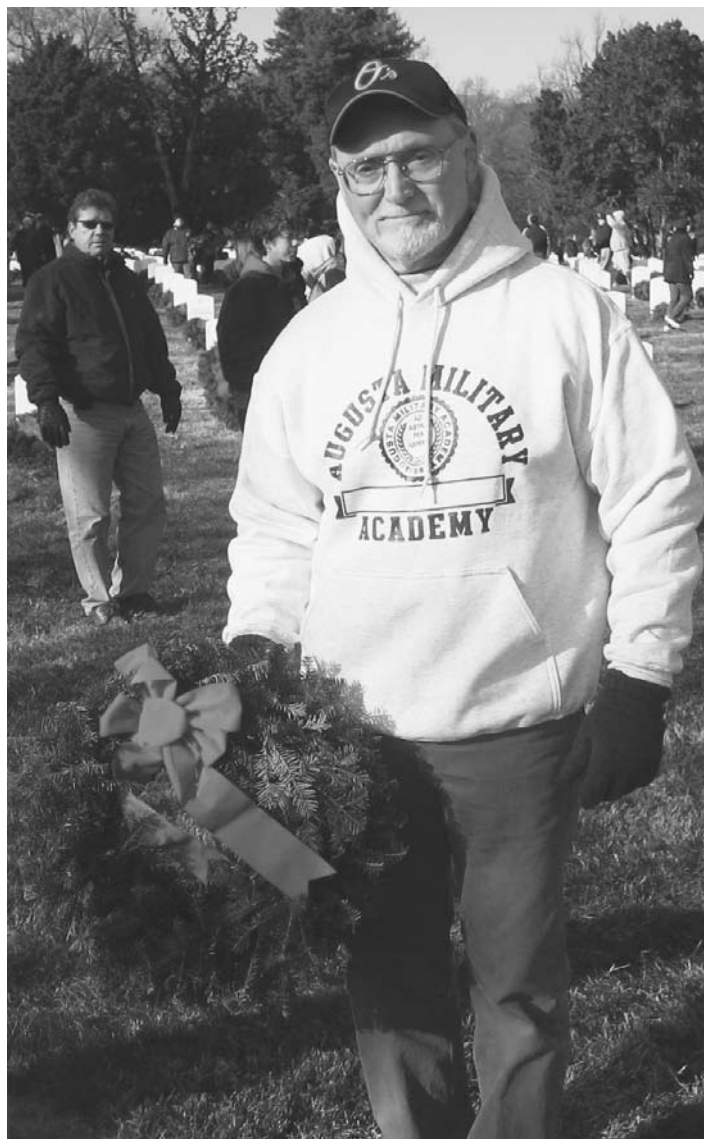
Great prices on great stuff!

Heroes again are honored at Arlington

For the second consecutive year, **Greg Pearce, '65**, and his fiancée Sandy Mills have been there on a Saturday in December when the tractor-trailer brings a load of Christmas wreaths to be placed at the graves of American heroes at the Arlington National Cemetery.

This year there were some 10,400 wreaths, the gift of a patriot from Maine who not only provides the wreaths but furnishes the truck and drivers to haul them to Virginia. In 2007, it was a bitter cold day but Pearce says that the 2008 wreath placement day *"was a beautiful day after the weather had been crummy all week long."* For Christmas of 2009, the plan is to have 15 thousand wreaths donated and placed by caring volunteers.

"Sandy placed a wreath at the grave of a boyhood friend of her father. While her Dad served in the Pacific Theater in World War Two, his friend Gene Gartner was a radio operator and was killed in the skies above Europe," says Greg.



Above, right, Greg Pearce, '65, was back for his second year placing Holiday wreaths at the graves of U. S. service personnel buried in the Arlington National Cemetery. Above, left, Greg's fiancée Sandy Mills places a wreath at the grave of her father's boyhood friend who was killed in World War II.

Augusta memories...

Brett Thompson, '75: I roomed with **John Tyminski** for a short time my senior year. We took turns getting up first and lighting a cigarette so the other guy could stay in the sack a little longer to enjoy his first smoke of the day. The night before my turn, I put a load in a cigarette and placed it right where I would find it first thing next morning. At the sound of Reveille, I jumped out of bed, lit the smokes and gave John his "special" one. He took one big drag and "BOOM." I was out the door with him right behind me, both of us in our skivvies. He didn't speak to me until after lunch.

Bill Blakely, '59: I was the postmaster for two years. I never figured out how any cadet thought he could get by with sending an empty envelope home on Sunday night when all they had to do was put a piece of paper in the envelope. The questionable "letters" were turned in to the Commandant the next day but I don't remember what the punishment was for failing to send that Sunday letter home... My years at AMA made college ROTC, summer camp at Fort Bragg and the Infantry Officer Basic Course at Fort Benning a LOT easier!

Bob Mitchell, '70: I have talked with **Roy Stauffer, '70**, and he sees **Coach Ralph Sassaman** often. I remember that at football practice one time the coach put on equipment and played quarterback. Being linebackers, **Thiel** and **Marcantoni** loved that!

Joe Lea, '65: Around mid-December, we would leave on our Christmas Furlough. There would be a turkey dinner in the Mess Hall the night before we left and some of the Band members would play Christmas carols. None of us could sleep that night and when six AM came, we couldn't wait to get to the Front Arch and get on our way home by car, bus, train or plane. The school had doughnuts for us as we left... I have earned three degrees and passed the bar in two states, yet there is not a day that I don't think about something or someone at AMA.

Jack Miner, '49: There were interminable card games, mostly Hearts, even after Lights Out. We would put blankets over the top bunk and sit on the bottom bunk with a very dim light. Sometimes on Fridays, the games would last all night and end just before Reveille.

Tom Phillips, '65: My most vivid memory of Augusta is scraping every window pane with a razor blade to remove every paint spot, fly spec or other blemish... it took forever. We would climb up to the top of the lockers to brush, wash and swipe every crack and crevice. And waxing the deck (that's the floor to you Army guys) involved some grab ass: sliding around on old towels or being towed at great speed by some other cadet letting the gluteus maximus turn its weight into a mirror shine.

Harry Campbell, '70: The week between Christmas and New Year was a time when all we cadets wanted was to relax at home and dress comfortably. Unfortunately, it also was the week our parents wanted to show us off and so we were made to go to special places in our uniforms. We would end up in church or at the photographer's in our cadet grey.

Phil Silverman, '64: 1963 was the coldest Winter I can remember. When you got up in the morning there would be a quarter inch of ice on the inside of your window... Three days before Finals, I got caught playing poker and almost got booted out of school.

Francis "F.X." Fields, '48 (*F.X. was the AMA bugler and the trumpeter in the School Orchestra*) On the night of my Senior Prom, **Pete Pappas** and I got on the bandstand at intermission and started jamming. I was handed the lead trumpeter's horn and Pete was on the band's drums. We drew such a crowd that the band came back early and they joined us in the Harry James version of *Two O'clock Jump*.

Randy Mitchell, '64: My funniest memory is when we threw all the cadets' shoes in the courtyard and blockaded the Front Arch with chairs. My most cherished memory is being part of the Color Guard and the Roller Rifles. My most dreadful recollections are of **Major Livick** roaming the stoops, bracing as a new cadet and dates from Stuart Hall.



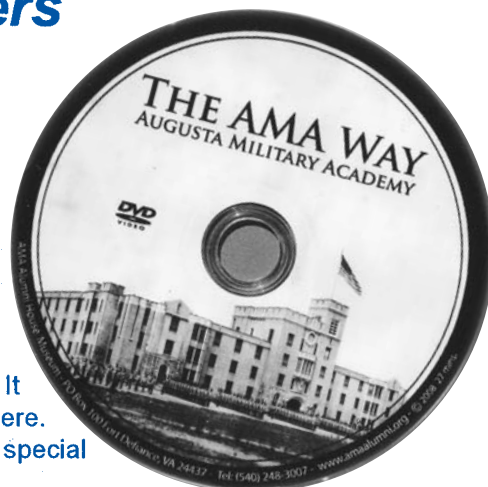
Long awaited AMA video premiers at reunion to cheers and tears

The Reunion 2008 audience got to their seats on time and the lights in the ballroom dimmed. A huge screen came to life with a black and white image of AMA cadets marching and the music to the AMA School Song playing in the background. This dissolved to a nighttime scene of Big Barracks and the beginning of a new day at AMA as lights came on in response to Reveille. Thus began *The AMA WAY*, three years in production and as the audience reacted, well worth the wait.

The DVD features everything from old 8mm movies shot in the '40s to heartfelt comments from alumni who graduated from 1935 to the 1970s. It highlights cadet life and salutes those special faculty members we all revere. It depicts how boys were turned into men at Augusta and emphasizes the special bond AMA men feel for the school and for each other.

Says **Karl Haleamau, '71**, "We have a special bond that is not experienced by others. We all left something in Fort Defiance when we left school for good." **Julian Quarles, '35**, says that in the last formation his senior year, "18 year old men were crying because we had been so close and we didn't know if we would ever see each other again." **Roger Messick, '52**, said that by year's end "you knew 90 per cent of the first names of all of the cadets in the Corps."

In all, 18 alumni and faculty appear on the DVD: **Bob "Homer" Anderson, '38**, **Rutland Beard, '42**, **Ed Chauncey, '49**, **Ed Click, '50**, **Cecil DePriest, '43**, **Karl Haleamau, '71**, **Angus Hines, '42**, **Linda Roller Livick, Mal Livick, Richard McLaughlin, '49**, **Roger Messick, '52**, **Larry Nicholson, '75**, **Julian Quarles, '35**, **Goodloe Saunders, '57**, **Rick Smail, '67**, **Frank Spencer, '49**, **Luke Stephenson, '49**, and **Don Studer**.



Many who saw the DVD were grateful that the house lights didn't go up the moment the presentation ended. **Doug Pennock, '72**, said that, "As an ex-cadet, the film caused an explosion of emotions that awakened old memories of my six year stay at Fort Defiance. I dare say the film had a similar effect on all the former cadets who saw it. Their tears spoke for themselves... At the end of the film, my wife, Trudy, spoke a testament to how well it transmits the sense of belonging and brotherhood that we feel for each other and for this institution. Trudy simply said, 'Now, I understand.'"

THE AMA WAY

is available by mail order from the
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AMAAlumniHouse@aol.com

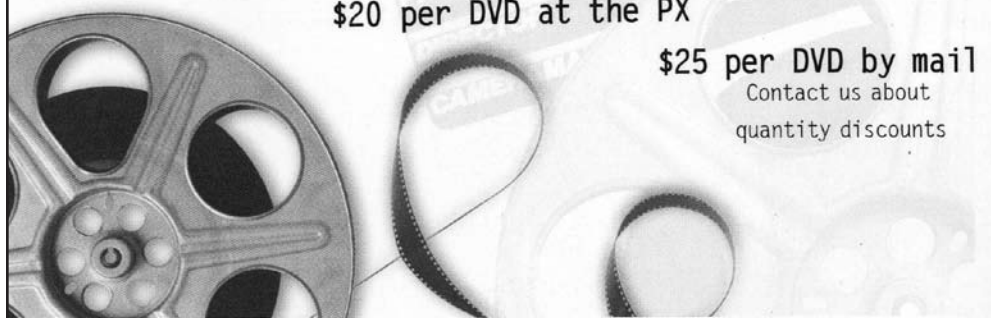
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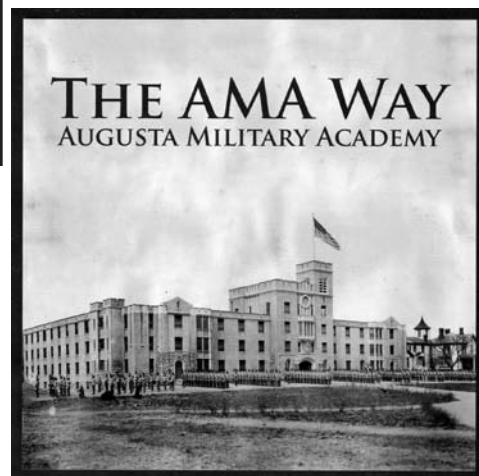
\$25 per DVD by mail

Contact us about
quantity discounts



We are still need some \$19,000 to complete the \$50,000 price tag for all the production and editing work. Any help that you can give will be much appreciated. For a \$100 donation, you will receive *The AMA WAY* free as our way of saying thank you.

You may be interested in knowing that the DVD has been prepared for showing on PBS stations. If you have contact with your local PBS station, ask them to screen the video, then show it on their channel.



Won Combat Infantryman Badge in three wars

Colonel Rutland Beard, '42, passes away

Colonel Rutland D. Beard, '42, passed away 21 December after heart surgery. A service will be held at the

Fort Myer Chapel on Tuesday 24 February at 8:45 AM with burial at the Arlington National Cemetery. The

following is an account of his extraordinary life first published in the Summer 2005 issue of *The Bayonet*.

There were only about 230 of them from the many millions who served in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Winners of the Combat Infantry Badge. An honor earned only when you either had been under fire for 30 consecutive days or were wounded or killed in less time than that. A badge that is worn above every other decoration except for the Medal of Honor, the CIB is the most prized of all decorations that a combat infantryman can receive.

Earning the CIB once marks the wearer as a hero who has felt the effects of shot, shell and bombardment where one can feel naked and defenseless under the onslaught. Now, imagine deserving this honor not in one war but three different wars.

Colonel Rutland Beard, '42, is one of that rarest of all combat veterans, the holder of the CIB in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. As an Army enlisted man in WW II, and as an officer in Korea and Vietnam. But not just an officer: an infantry officer.

Rutland Beard grew up in Chevy Chase, Maryland and came to AMA for his last two years of high school. He says, *"I didn't think I was going to like AMA and my Dad said that if I really didn't want to go back after Christmas Holiday, I didn't have to go back. I didn't like it at first but then I couldn't wait to get back to Fort Defiance after the Christmas Holiday ended."*

He was on the fencing, track and swim teams, played JV basketball, and made the Honor Roll. *"I broke my nose trifling on the third stoop and the doctor told me not to engage in any activity that could cause me to hurt my nose again, so I went out for fencing because you wore a mask,"* he laughed. Rut roomed with **Wayne Wright** and **Dave Eborn** and they saw their world change after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in December of 1941, six months before Rut graduated.

He enrolled at VMI and was advised to get into the Army Reserve so that he would be able to complete his studies. At VMI, he encountered an upper classman whom he had defeated in a fencing match the year before. *"This guy really gave me a hard time,"* he recalls.

The Reserve was called up in 1943 and instead of marching about on the Parade Ground in Lexington, he found himself undergoing basic training at Fort Belvoir just outside Washington, D.C. He was enrolled in the ASTP

(Army Specialized Training Program) at the University of Maryland and when the time came for assignment to a branch of the service, it was made easy: if your name started with A through M, you were in the infantry. So in September of 1944, Beard joined Company E, 102nd Infantry Division where he was the BAR man in a rifle company and later a demolitions expert which took into account his training at the Engineer School at Fort Belvoir. He soon found himself in Europe in the middle of combat: *"The first dead soldier I saw was my foxhole mate."*

The 102nd pushed through Holland and became the northernmost American division to enter Germany with the British 2nd Army on their left *"reaching the Roer River in December just as the Battle of the Bulge began, then spearheading the 9th US Army across the Roer and Cologne Plain and on to the Rhine,"* Beard recalls.

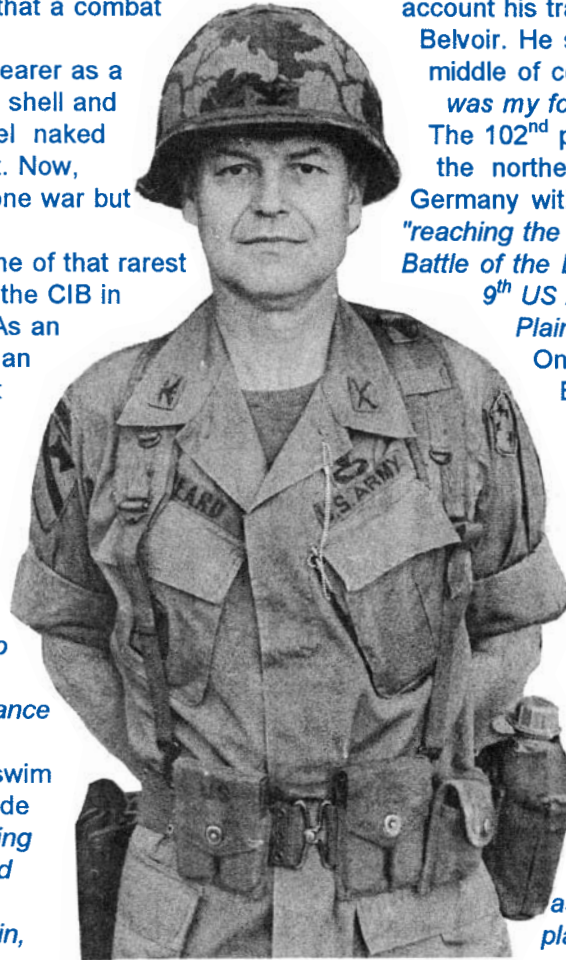
On Christmas Eve of 1944, he earned a Bronze Star with V for laying mines under enemy fire. Crossing the Rhine at Wessel, the 102nd fought its way to the Elbe, 45 miles west of Berlin, arriving a few days after President Roosevelt died on 12 April 1945.

There they sat waiting for the Russians to approach from the east. Before the Red Army, a sea of German soldiers and civilians fled into the territory controlled by the Americans and British. *"As the Russians got closer, some of their artillery fell on our troops,"* says Beard, *"and then we started to have casualties from small arms fire as they approached the Elbe River. My platoon sergeant was shot and killed by a Russian bullet the day before the*

European war ended on 8 May 1945." Rut's unit was assigned occupation duties and was preparing for deployment to the

Pacific when two atomic bombs ended World War II on 15 August 1945. Beard had received his first Combat Infantryman Badge in October of 1944.

He returned to the States and married Lucille Stewart in 1946. Beard attended and graduated from the Foreign Service School at Georgetown University, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1948 and he and Lucille left for occupation duty in Japan in 1949 which is where they were when North Korea invaded South Korea on 25 June



Colonel Beard on his second tour in Vietnam as Brigade Commander, 196th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division, 23rd Inf Div.

1950. Rutland Beard, Jr. ("Chip") had been born in Walter Reed Army Hospital a few days after his father was commissioned in Washington.

The United Nations condemned the aggression of the North Koreans and President Truman determined that the United States would send troops to protect South Korea. Lieutenant Beard was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division in Japan which had trained with the Marines for amphibious operations and his unit was attached to the 1st Marine Division when General MacArthur's brilliant landing at Inchon took place which cut off the North Koreans who were in the Pusan Perimeter area from those north of the landing site. After liberating Seoul, the capital of South Korea, Rut's outfit received a Navy Presidential Unit Citation, an unusual honor for an Army unit.

"The 7th Division was the only U.S. division to reach the Yalu River which was the border with Manchuria," says Beard, and it was in this area that the Chinese entered the war sending a huge force against the Americans on 26-27 November. "When the Chinese slammed into our guys, another battalion lost a thousand men in the Chosen Reservoir with only six officers and 70 enlisted men surviving," Beard says. The Navy evacuated many troops caught in this attack for which a second Navy Presidential Unit Citation was given Rut's regiment, a most unusual honor indeed.

After a three-day pass to visit Lucille in Japan, Rut headed back to Korea. "We crossed the 38th parallel² six times: three times going north and three times going south..." By early 1951, Beard had been promoted to first lieutenant and was transferred to battalion headquarters "which was hit by four 155 rounds of friendly fire which killed one of my good friends. He died in my arms, but these things happen in the fog of war."

After service as a forward air controller and assistant S-3, Rut picked up Lucille in Japan and rotated back to the United States. He had received his second Combat Infantryman Badge on this tour in Korea in October 1950.

After an assignment to Indiantown Gap, Beard took part

in nuclear warfare training in Nevada where he witnessed an 18 kiloton blast from 7,000 yards. His unit then moved to within 900 yards of ground zero where excessive radiation stopped their advance. In 1953, Beard was assigned to Trieste where he was able to take his family which now included David who had been born in Japan. When Italy and Yugoslavia clashed over control of Trieste, Beard was named convoy commander of a procession to

evacuate all American dependents, including his family, 270 miles across Italy. That task completed, he was given command of one of two PT boats to patrol a 15 mile section of the Italian coastline to prevent any contraband from being landed to support the warring parties. When this crisis was settled, Beard was assigned to Berlin and promoted to captain. His family members were one of the first American dependents to occupy Berlin after the Berlin Airlift had been ended.

Now a company commander of A Company, 6th Infantry Regiment, he subsequently was

assigned to the battalion staff and then was selected to be the aide-de-camp to General George Honnen, the U.S. Military Commander in Berlin. "This gave me an opportunity to travel into the Russian Zone which most U.S. troops could not and would not want to do, and visit U.S. Army Headquarters in Heidelberg and the residence of General Anthony McAuliffe, the overall commander," he said.

The Beard family (which now included Jonathan who was born in Trieste and Kathe who was born in Berlin) headed back to the U.S. where he was assigned

to the PMS&T staff at Ohio State. "One of my students was Jack Nicklaus but he missed lots of classes apparently preferring golf to what I had to say." After three years at Ohio State, Beard attended the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth where he was promoted to major, then to 2nd Division Headquarters at Fort Benning where he was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1965. During the Cuban missile crisis, Colonel Beard wrote the plan for a regimental combat team to invade Cuba "and we were sure that the invasion was going ahead." But the crisis passed and now he turned to preparations for his partici-



FROM WORLD WAR II - L., Rutland Beard at the opening to a coal mine in Holland where "we went to take a shower once a month before the offensive got under way in early 1945." R., PFC Beard with a Russian lieutenant just after the war ended.



Combat Infantryman Badge

² The dividing line between North and South Korea.

pation in his third war in less than two decades.

Beard was on orders to Vietnam in 1963 when he was reassigned to participate in a two year experiment of an airmobile concept of maneuvering troops by helicopter. This led to the creation of the 1st Air Cavalry Division and its deployment to Vietnam in 1965. Beard had gone ahead with an advance party and when the 1st Cav arrived, he became a battalion commander. *"Actually, I commanded two different battalions and was a brigade deputy commander during my 1965-66 tour in Vietnam,"* he says. On this tour, he earned his third CIB and twice declined to receive a Silver Star. *"My battalion adjutant (S-1) was ordered by the brigade CO to put me in for a Silver Star on two different occasions. I informed him that I was only doing my job as a battalion CO and that the rifle company 'grunts' were the ones who should be decorated."* Beard was decorated with the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with palm by a Vietnamese general after an operation in the Central Highlands in 1966, the highest

headed back to Vietnam where he took command of the largest brigade in the U. S. Army composed of 7,000 men organized into four battalions, an armored cavalry squad-



IN KOREA - 1st Lieutenant Beard at his battalion CP north of the 38th parallel on 15 April 1951. When he first went to Korea, he was a platoon leader in Company G, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Division. Later, he was Assistant S-3, 2nd Battalion of the 32nd age 26.

WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

With only 230 men in history who have won a Combat Infantryman Badge in three wars, what are the odds that Augusta Military Academy would have two such heroes?

In addition to Colonel Beard, Colonel Joe Wasco, '41, also earned the CIB in three wars. Beard said he had not seen Wasco since 1941 when they encountered each other on the beach in Tuy Wa, Vietnam in 1966. Wasco's battalion (which he commanded in the 101st Airborne) was attached to the airborne brigade in which Beard commanded an airborne battalion. *"Subsequently, we saw each other several times,"* says Beard.

Colonel Wasco now lives in Union Bridge, Maryland.

award of that decoration.

Colonel Beard came back to the States in 1966 and was assigned to the Special Operations Command at McDill Air Force Base. *"There, I got in lots of jump time and was able to end my military career as a master parachutist,"* he says. Beard went to the War College at Carlisle Barracks, was promoted to full colonel and assigned to the Pentagon where he immediately began to lobby for command of a brigade, preferably in combat. He got his wish in 1971 and

ron, a ranger unit, two artillery battalions and even a dog unit with handlers. When the Marines left Da Nang, Colonel Beard's unit (the 196th Infantry Brigade of the 23rd Americal Division) took their place.

After six months, Beard joined the staff of General Creighton Abrams to prepare plans for the redeployment of all U.S. forces (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard) to the U.S. Back in Washington, Colonel Beard was assigned to the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff where he served for three years. His last assignment was to an army "think tank" in Bethesda, Maryland with the mission of standardizing doctrine for all forces in NATO (which also eventually included SEATO).³ Colonel Beard retired in 1978 after 36 years on active duty, one of just 230 men to have earned a CIB in three wars. In 1984, that group held a reunion at Fort Benning where some 180 veterans were able to make it. Their names are carved in brass in the Infantry Museum. After he retired, Beard worked for the National Methodist Church Office in Washington, DC for six years. He and Lucille have lived in Potomac, Maryland since 1977, a change from the beginning of his military career when he moved 26 times in 24 years! *"AMA started me on the right path,"* says Colonel Beard. *"It was there that I learned discipline which prepared me for what was to come. I owe AMA a lot."*

³ NATO is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization created by the U.S. and its allies as a buffer to Soviet expansion in Europe. SEATO, the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, had the same purpose as a buffer to Chinese expansion the Pacific.

THE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH which owns the Augusta Military Academy buildings and grounds has made major renovations to the structures we all knew as AMA cadets. The Big Room, right, is a chapel where weddings and other ceremonies take place. Hoover Hall, the classroom area beneath the Big Room, is now a restaurant with a full modern kitchen. The AMA Gymnasium can be configured for meetings and meals of varying sizes and there are sleeping rooms in Davis Hall (which most of us remember as J Barracks) with private baths, refrigerators, wireless internet, microwaves and wireless internet. These excellent facilities can be rented for various occasions by calling Greg at 540/248-1862. Are you planning a meeting in the Valley? Why not have it on the AMA campus where we are so very welcome.



THE BIG ROOM is now a chapel and the stage is an altar. The false ceiling and fluorescent lights have been removed and the original wood beams are visible above once more.



Left, above, Memorial Gymnasium set for a formal dinner. Left, below, a typical sleeping room. Above, Hoover Hall set for a banquet.



Ramsey Scholarships help area students and AMA's reputation

A scholarship program established by **Clyde Ramsey, '49**, to honor his late wife is helping ten Augusta County students attend the Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC) at Weyers Cave.

Each of the students is receiving \$200 from the fund honoring Jeanne Morrisette Ramsey who passed away in 2006. The AMA Alumni Association administers the fund and the awards are called Augusta Military Academy Alumni Association Scholarships. Representatives from AMA will attend the annual BRCC Scholarship Luncheon on the campus in late March where scholarship providers will be thanked.

Winners of the 2008-09 \$200 stipends are Ashley Aldhizer of Mount Sidney, Taylor Coyner of Waynesboro, Steven Craun of Mount Solon, Benjamin Keaton of Staunton, William Oliver of Crimora, Katie Propst of Staunton, Jesse Robinson of Swoope, Angela Strickler of Craigsville, Joshua Wheeler of Waynesboro and Catherine Wright of Crimora.

Says AMA Alumni President **Garry Granger, '71**, "The way Clyde set up this scholarship program honoring Jeanne also honors AMA in and around Augusta County. Clyde always thinks up unique ways to make Augusta look good and we are ever in debt to him."

Don't bid up AMA stuff on EBay

Jerry Wildman, '57, is AMA's 'EBay monitor." He is constantly checking to see if there are AMA things for sale there. Recently, he was able to get a 1929 *Recall* for ten dollars which was hand delivered to the museum.

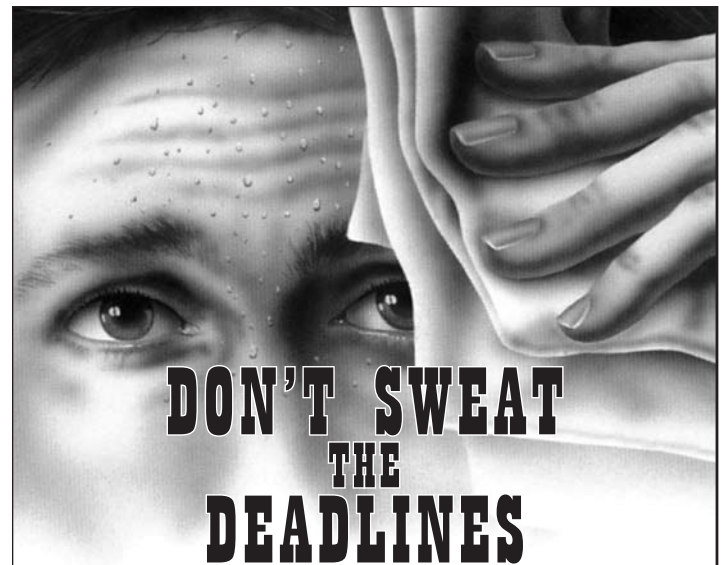
In the past, there have been occasions when Jerry finds himself bidding against another AMA alumnus or friend. If you spot some AMA item for sale on EBay, please let Jerry know at: wildman@pstbbs.com. And don't bid up the price!

Bill Parkins, '70, thanks AMA

Bill Parkins, '70, the son of **Colonel Will Parkins, '35**, has sent the following letter the Alumni House: *I want to thank all of you for the lovely flowers you sent in honor of my Dad, Colonel Will. I really appreciate it very much. I also appreciated the alumni who came to Dad's homecoming service at the Bridgewater Retirement Center Chapel. I'm sure he also appreciated them being there as well. Not only will I miss my Dad but I know you will as well. He was a loving father as well as an officer and a gentleman.*




Pictured at left is **James R. Smith, '43**, who **John Younger**, his classmate, has been looking for over the past several years. John says Jimmy was on the wrestling team, a corporal in Company C and mail clerk. If you know where Jimmy is, write John at: loujohny@aol.com.



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ERNIE "PETE" MINES

First Sergeant Ernest G. "Pete" Mines passed away 15 September 2008 and was buried in the Staunton National Cemetery with full military honors. A military tactics instructor at AMA 1965-69, he was AMA's Commandant of Cadets 1979-81.

Those who were cadets when he was at Augusta knew that he had won both the Bronze Star for valor and the Distinguished Service Cross - the nation's second highest award for bravery.

Now, we have the details of his heroic action from the official Department of the Army General Order authorizing the award, thanks to **Harry Campbell, '70**:

+ + +

First Sergeant Ernest G. Mines, United States Army, Company C, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 4th Infantry Division, APO 96262 (is) awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for action on 18 October 1969 in the Republic of Vietnam.

For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam: First Sergeant Mines distinguished himself while participating in a search and clear mission in the mountainous terrain northeast of An Khe.



Mines

While exploring a cavern located near an enemy camp site, he discovered a cache containing rifles, baskets of rice and salt.

First Sergeant Mines summoned other team members to aid him in removing the supplies. As his companions gathered around and he began to remove the items, he activated a concealed booby trap which caused an armed grenade to fall to the cavern floor.

Reacting quickly, Sergeant Mines warned his comrades and then threw himself directly on the grenade. After an agonizing period during which the grenade failed to explode, he carefully moved off the grenade and ran from the cave.

A subsequent examination of the grenade revealed that the pin had been pulled but the safety release had not been removed when the booby trap was emplaced. Sergeant Mines' extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

HEROES

LARRY NICHOLSON

Brigadier General Larry Nicholson, '75, will soon be heading to Afghanistan. He originally had orders for his third tour in Iraq after having been grievously wounded during his first tour but he will go to Afghanistan instead.

In July 2004, then Colonel Nicholson became Division G-3 to the 1st Marine Division in Iraq. He assumed command of the 5th Marine Regiment which served in Iraq from January 2006 until February 2007.



Nicholson

General Nicholson served as Commanding General, Ground Combat Element, II Marine Expeditionary Force and Deputy Commanding General for Security Transition, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

Nicholson was born in Toronto and following his years at AMA, earned a degree in business administration at The Citadel. He was the youngest second year cadet at the military college.

He also holds a Master of Science degree from the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. He was a platoon and company commander in his first assignment at San Diego.

Following amphibious training at Quantico, he served as a company officer and instructor at the US Naval Academy at Annapolis.

He later was assigned to the Middle East as a United Nations Observer for UNTSO Palestine.

In 1995, Nicholson reported to Camp Lejeune as Executive Officer of the Wolfpack of 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion.

In 1997, Nicholson assumed duties as the 2nd Marine Division G-3 Operations Officer until taking command of the Warlords of 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines in 1999.

Following a deployment to the Balkans AO with 26 MEU, he was reassigned in 2001 as the Executive Officer of the 2nd Marine Regiment.

Upon graduation from the NATO Defense College in Rome in 2002, he was assigned to NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium where he served as ground forces planner for the US military delegation to NATO, the only Marine at NATO at that time.

In July 2004, he reported to the 1st Marine Division HQ at Camp Blue Diamond, Iraq where he served as the Division G-3.

Then, in July 2005, Nicholson assumed command of the 5th Marine Regiment in Iraq.

At AMA, Larry Nicholson was the Battalion Commander his senior year. He fenced, played lacrosse and football and was Athlete of the Year in 1974-75.

He was in the Roller Rifles, on the Honor Roll, was elected to *Ad Astra per Aspera*, and was the main speaker at the Saturday luncheon during Reunion 2007.



The 2009 AMA Cruise



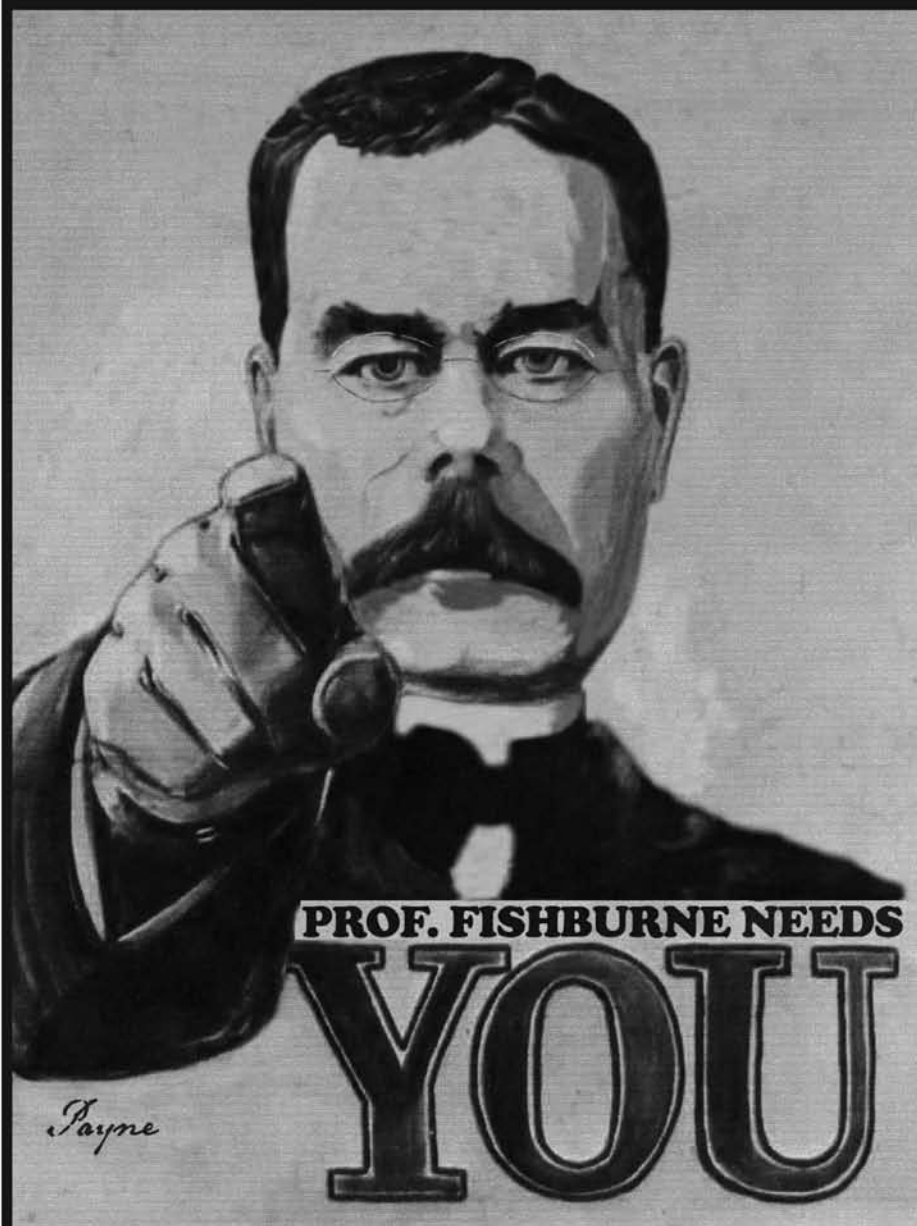
The third annual AMA Alumni Cruise left Miami on 27 September for Cozumel, Grand Cayman and Jamaica on the Carnival Lines *Liberty* returning to port on 3 October.

Among the AMA folks on the trip were Brenda and Goodloe Saunders, '57, and their daughters Air Force Captain Jamie Saunders and Christie, Brenda and Gordon Metz, '67, Marne and Mike Nolan, '67, Duke Fancher, '58, and Scott Peterson and some other friends.

How was the cruise? Fantastic! Already, plans are underway for a 2009 cruise. See the story on page 42.



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The Class of 1979 will celebrate its 30th anniversary at Reunion 2009

From Russia with love

"To the Stars nonetheless": Paul Karch, '79

My four years at Augusta Military Academy (1975-79) are some of the luckiest in my "young" middle aged life. Memories are fresh, discipline is ingrained, and the understanding of the value of my existence are all products of my "tour" in big Barracks. Today, we think of a tour as an accompanied vacation, complete with instruction or direction to an unknown area. For most of us, Augusta was just that (complete with the marching of "Tours").

I fondly recall arriving in 1975 after an unsuccessful stint in a Northern Virginia high school. I was the unwilling participant in my parents' experiment – Fix our son! I had grown up in a privileged and lucky life, adopted at birth by two loving and caring parents. My father was a senior level US diplomat who relocated the family, including my adopted sister, to the Soviet Union in the midst of the Cold War.

In the USSR, we lived in six different cities, visited countless others, and viewed the US astronauts' landing on the moon on a black and white TV in a Leningrad hotel. After the astronauts returned, one of the moon rocks was entrusted to my father's organization for display. During the months that followed, when the display closed each day, this nine-year-old was responsible for carrying the encased moon rock, complete with guards, to a safe-off premise site.

True to form of my parents' vision, I was educated in Soviet schools as my father believed in learning the language and understanding a nation's culture from the native's point of view. Imagine then coming back to the United States after these interesting and trying times. Searching for my identity among American school students, I was lost. We went back overseas to Slovakia, Yugoslavia and finally Bulgaria. I felt at home in this world of diplomacy, privileged and somehow special.

Returning to the US once more, I was enrolled in a public high school, complete with all of the entrapments that the mid-seventies provided. I remember as if it were yesterday being awakened one morning and told that I was to pack for an extended stay at a boarding school. Two days later, we left for Augusta. With hair to my shoulders, a miserable academic record and absolutely no direction, I drove onto the AMA campus with my parents.

First things first – the hair had to go, and it went. Next, assignment to a room and, what? A roommate? The uniform, going to sleep at a certain hour, Reveille at a certain hour. Wow, was it cold for those morning formations in November. Memories of limited "tasty" food, walking down the stoop to

the sinks for a shower, hair freezing on the way back to my room. Rank? A private. Study hall, formations, bed making, tie tying, shoe shining, parade marching, the rifle range and **Colonel Hoover**.

What else could an aspiring young hooligan desire? Direction? AMA gave direction. They were judges, jury and sometimes executioners – **Livick, Savedge, Studer, Mannasmith, Hoover** and all the others working to direct us, the hooligans. A month after school started, my parents arrived for a Sunday visit and walked directly past me during the service in the Old Stone Church! They did not recognize me, and neither did I. In a month, I had begun to realize that commitment, performance, loyalty and discipline were the keys to success at Augusta. For the first time, I had direction.

1975-79 were great years. Music: AC/DC, Boston, Lynyrd Skynyrd, ZZ Top and the rest, blaring out of our rooms on Saturdays in the Spring. Beer runs and the back field; we thought we were clever. In reality, we were growing. As we became inventive and creative, we learned the ropes of life and an understanding of rules, ramifications and accountability.

Did I say tours? Where else could someone play multiple sports in a season? As an accomplished soccer player, I played that sport, kicked briefly on the football team, fenced, played baseball and did whatever else was available. Augusta created the need to be involved, and that commitment sticks with me to this day. Honor Roll, Roller Rifles, cotillions, town leave, marksmanship, PFC, corporal and lieutenant, squads, platoons, companies and the battalion.

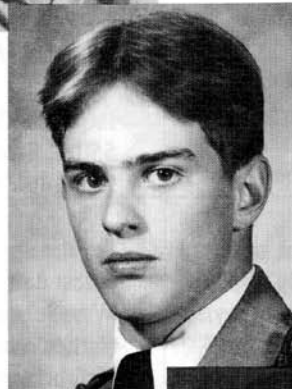
As I age, I become more appreciative of the lessons and experiences of life and the fortunes that have been afforded me. How fortunate to have a family when none existed, to have a school where the commitment to the students was paramount, and where there are thousands of unspoken thanks.

Thank you, AMA, for this Tour!

Augusta will always live in my mind. To the stars with difficulty.. maybe, but to the stars nonetheless!



1975



1979



Paul Karch today

Paul Karch lives in Deerfield Beach, Florida with his wife, Susan, and seven year old Paul, Jr. He has three children by a previous marriage. Paul is Vice President of Business Development for a \$15 billion global government contractor and is Chairman and Founder of Gardant Global, Inc, a Washington, DC based strategy, technology and investment firm with offices in Washington, Florida, Virginia, Ohio and London. Paul's e-mail address is: pk12345@yahoo.com. His phone is 1/954/444-9501.



CASINO NIGHT

SPONSORS NEEDED!



Already, we have a few SPONSORS for the gaming tables on Casino Night. Whether or not you play - whether or not you attend the reunion - you can sponsor a table and help us **MAKE CASINO NIGHT A FINANCIAL SUCCESS.**

Will you be a sponsor? \$400 sponsors a full table while \$200 sponsors a half table. Get in touch with us at 540/248-3007 or by e-mail at: AMAAumniHouse@aol.com. You can use MasterCard, VISA, Discover, or American Express to charge your sponsorship!

The following alumni are 2009 table sponsors:
**FRANK WILLIAMSON, '60 + JEFF WENZEL, '70 +
STEVE TRENT, '70 + LUKE SNYDER, '60 + SAFEWAY +
JORGE ROVIROSA, '70 + HARRY MORRISSETTE RAMSEY +
BUD OAKEY, '70 + BILL McVEY, '60 + GARRY GRANGER, '71 +
BLAINE CLARKE, '72 + BOB BRADFORD, '50**



**REMEMBER - ON CASINO NIGHT
YOU WILL NOT BE PLAYING
AGAINST THE HOUSE!**

**The casino operators and
dealers want you to win!**





THE 2009 AMA OPEN

A four person scramble (Captain's choice) with
all proceeds to the AMA Alumni Foundation
EVERYONE WELCOME! MEN, LADIES AND TEENS

**We need your help in
rounding up "goodies"
for the players!**

Do you or your company
have things that can be
used as prizes such as
umbrellas, caps, balls,
towels, golf tees, etc?

If not, we'll take CASH!

Please contact Mickey Toms
at: cmtoms@earthlink.com

Use every player's tee shot twice. Lowest score wins!

**PRIZES: 1st, 2nd and Last Place! Best putt!
Longest drive! Closest to the pin!**

Drawing for Mulligan prizes! \$10 per Mulligan! Limit: two per player

FEES: \$100* per person includes 18 holes, green fees, cart rental,
refreshments, box lunch, Goody Bag and a donation to the AMA Alumni
Foundation. * Includes two Mulligans

Staunton Country Club
Friday 24 April at 9 AM - Shotgun start
Please return the entry form by 10 April

Sign up form for the 2009 AMA Golf Open

Your name and your Class _____

Address _____

Phone (____) _____ e-mail _____

Handicap, or last three scores _____ I'll play with anyone _____

Team me with _____ and _____

We have a foursome _____ and _____
_____ and _____

Make check payable to: AMA Alumni Foundation
Mail form & check to: GOLF, c/o AMA, P. O. Box 100, Fort Defiance, VA 24437
Photocopy will be accepted

REUNION 2009
Augusta Military Academy
Post Office Box 100
Fort Defiance, VA 24437-0100

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
Postage and Fees Paid
Augusta Military Academy
Alumni Foundation

Register for Reunion 2009 before 10 April and you will save!